

Bears Eye Third Win vs Falcons

DOUG BUFFONE'S



75¢

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OF AMERICA

BEAR REPORT

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

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A Weekly Newspaper Devoted Exclusively
To The Chicago Bears and The NFL.

September 23, 1976

ON THE COVER . . .

Back Walter Payton gained 148 yards Sunday against San Francisco, his best individual pro effort. This week's cover action took place a year ago vs Green Bay. (Photo by Mike Volland)



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UP AND OVER . . . Bears defensive tackle Jim Osborne makes an attempt to get by Detroit's Bob Kowalkowski in Chicago's September 12th win. Read Kevin Lamb's story on Osborne on Page 6.

(Photo by Bill Smith)

FOLLOW THE CHICAGO BEARS THIS SEASON

Chicago Bears Regular Season:

Sep. 12	Chicago 10, Detroit 3
Sep. 19	Chicago 19, San Francisco 12
Sep. 26	ATLANTA	1:00
Oct. 3	WASHINGTON	1:00
Oct. 10	at Minnesota	1:00
Oct. 17	at Los Angeles	1:00
Oct. 24	at Dallas	1:00
Oct. 31	MINNESOTA	1:00
Nov. 7	OAKLAND	1:00
Nov. 14	GREEN BAY	1:00
Nov. 21	at Detroit	1:00
Nov. 28	at Green Bay	1:00
Dec. 5	at Seattle	1:00
Dec. 12	DENVER	1:00



Doug Buffone



Thoughts of Atlanta Before Sunday

(Editor's Note: In the San Francisco game Sunday, after writing this week's column, Doug Buffone was injured. He was to undergo surgery Monday (Sept. 20) at the Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago.

His injury was diagnosed as a torn Achilles' tendon. Doug was expected to be recuperating at his Deerfield, Illinois home by the end of the week.

Now in his 11th pro season, Buffone had started in 142 consecutive regular season games, including San Francisco. That is a Chicago Bear record.)

1970

I was beginning my fifth pro season with the Bears and Norm Van Brocklin was starting his second full year as the Falcons head coach in 1970.

The Dutchman was a tough coach and his players played with intensity as a result. You knew that the action would be knock down and drag out every time that you faced a Van Brocklin team.

In 1970 the Bears had opened the year with two wins but then dropped three straight before heading to Atlanta. The Falcons had just come off of a big win over New Orleans and they were ready for us.

Keep Awake

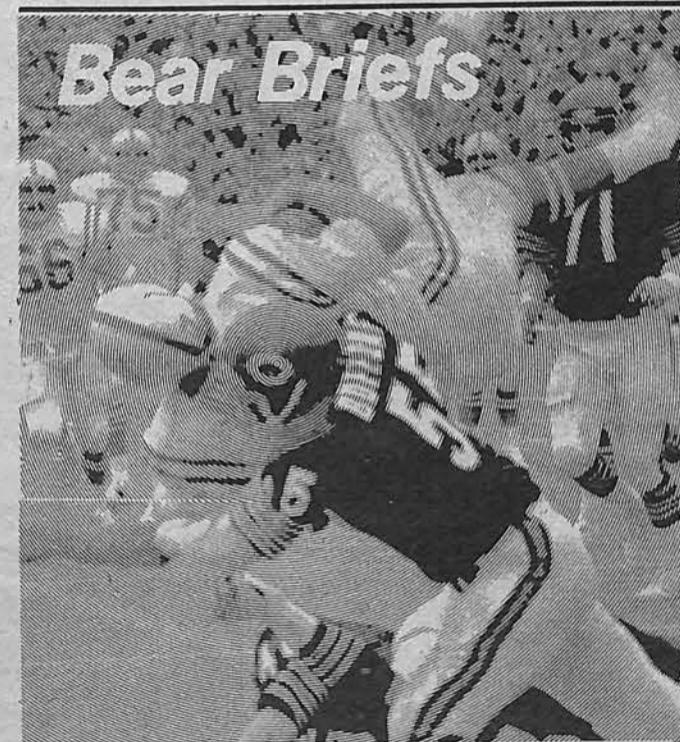
Well, Chicago prevailed in that one 23-14, but the final score wasn't as important as the lesson I learned that day, which is to keep awake ALL the time.

In one play Van Brocklin and Atlanta set me up and I didn't even know it. Usually, at my left linebacker spot, I'll be positioned opposite the other team's tight end — in this case Jim Mitchell.

But on this play, the Atlanta flanker was taken out of the game and Mitchell was moved to the weak side; I didn't notice the switch. So when the pitch-out went to the Falcon halfback I came across the field to help out. As it turned out I wasn't any help at all as Mitchell provided an excellent crack-back block (then legal) and didn't that one hurt!

It was a typical punishing move by Van Brocklin to catch a lazy linebacker. No question, it worked and Mitchell made quite a hit for being Atlanta's all-time leading receiver.

Bear Briefs



Roster Changes Continue

Although most of the NFL player transactions have been completed there were some changes made last Wednesday (Sept. 15) in the Bears' camp. Four players were involved:

Ninth-year guard **Mark Nordquist** was placed on waivers; defensive end **Gary Hrvnak** was placed on the injured-reserve list (which means he is lost for the year); defensive specialist **Jerry Meyers** was re-activated for the second time

this season; and safety **Gary Fencik** was signed as a free agent.

Fencik is a 6-1, 190-pound Yale graduate. He is a rookie that was taken by Miami on the tenth round of this year's collegiate draft. The Bears are of course still holding at the NFL player limit of 43.

A complete list of all Bear transactions since the opening of training camp can be found on page 14.

1976 Captains

Prior to the season's opening game vs. Detroit, these Chicago Bears were chosen as team captains for 1976: rookie wide receiver **Brian Baschnagel**, linebacker **Doug Buffone**, running back **Roland Harper**, defensive tackle **Jim Osborne** and offensive tackle **Jeff Sevy**. That five-some will be captains for the entire season.

Most Improved?

The September 13 issue of **Sports Illustrated** had the magazine's annual pro football preview. In the **NFC Central**, as previewed by SI's Mark Donovan, Minnesota is picked to win the division again — but the **Bears** are selected to take over the runner-up spot while being tabbed as the Most Improved Team in the NFL.

Let's just hope that the **Sports Illustrated** Cover Jinx, applied to only those featured on the cover.

Piccolo Memories

When I think of Atlanta I also have memories of Brian Piccolo, his final pro game was against the Falcons in 1969.

Brian had signed with the Bears in 1965, the same year that I was playing my last college season at Louisville. We got to be close friends quickly with our lockers set side-by-side at Wrigley Field.

Brian got his first starting assignment against Atlanta during the 1968 season, when he became a regular for the year's final five games. He replaced Gale Sayers, who was then facing his first knee operation.

Sayers came back in 1969, but midway through the year running back Ron Bull was hurt and Brian was a starter again.

Final Game

It was November 16 and the Bears were back in Atlanta. We came into town following our first win of the year (which turned out to be our only win), 38-7, over Pittsburgh.

Sayers was lined-up as the halfback and Piccolo the fullback and they helped to make a game of it that afternoon.

Brian carried the ball 12 times for 32 yards and also caught two passes for 13 more yards. His last-quarter touchdown, from one-yard out, brought us to within ten points at 41-31. That scoring run was the last carry Brian Piccolo was to ever make as a professional football player.

He came out of the game after that because he was coughing badly. The next day he was hospitalized and exactly seven months after that game, on June 16, 1970, Brian Piccolo died of cancer.

Last Time

The last time that our two teams met was in 1974 in Atlanta. Nick Mike-Mayer came in to kick a fourth-quarter field goal for a 13-10 Falcon win.

But Atlanta went on to lose eight of its last nine games after that and Van Brocklin was replaced by current head coach Marion Campbell at mid-season.

The memories are many.

Numbering the Bears

Going into the 1976 season the Bears averaged 2.53 years of previous National Football League experience.

The 43 Bears on this year's roster will be 25.1 years old by season's end. They average 6-2 and weigh 224.46 pounds. Their total shower weight is 6,652, minus towels.

The oldest Bear is linebacker Doug Buffone, who was 32 on June 27. Two others joined in the 30s club this year — Royce Berry and Virg Carter.

The youngest Bear is still Walter Payton, who turned 22 on July 25th. Five others are also 22 — Dennis Lick, Gary Fencik, Jerry Meyers, Brian Baschnagel and Dan Jiggetts.

There are seven rookies (Baschnagel, Jiggetts, Meyers, Fencik, Lick, Tom Hicks and Jerry Muckensturm) and 15 second-year players on this 57th Chicago Bear team.

Only six Bears have been in the NFL for more than five years: Buffone (11), Berry (8), Carter (7), Ron Shanklin (7), Mike Adamle (6) and Larry Schreiber (6).

Only 12 current Bear players were with the Club in 1974: Gary Huff, Bill Knox, Craig Clemons, Allan Ellis, Waymond Bryant, Doug Buffone, Don Rives, Wally Chambers, Jim Osborne, Lionel Antoine, Bo Rother and Bob Parsons.

The Bears starting offensive line-up averages 24.27 years of age and 1.90 years of previous NFL experience. The defense averages are 25.90 years old and 3.45 seasons of experience.



A BEAR COMBO . . . Walter Payton (at left) had his best rushing day ever as a pro against the 49ers, gaining 148 yards . . . while teammate Wally Chambers (above) helped to key the defense with four solo tackles. (Photos by Bill Smith)

Bears Go For Third Straight Win After Knocking Off 49ers 19-12

Three consecutive wins to open the season . . . that hasn't happened to the Chicago Bears since the NFL Championship year of 1963.

Well, don't look now but that feat could be repeated this Sunday at Soldier Field. The Bears made such a happening possible by beating San Francisco 19-12 last week on the West Coast.

Chicago (2-0) looks to make it three in a row this week against the winless Atlanta Falcons (0-2); kick-off time is 1 p.m. CDT. The Falcons gave up 24 fourth-quarter points in losing to Detroit 24-10 in the Lions' Pontiac Stadium.

Peyton Nearly Perfect

Second-year back Walter Payton had the best rushing day of his young career playing against the 49ers in Candlestick Park.

Peyton ran for 148 yards (he had 134 vs. New Orleans last year) and scored two first-half touchdowns to set up the Bears' ninth win in their last 11 games. His heroics also helped to put Chicago alone in first place of the NFC Central . . . perennial champ Minnesota is in second after tying with Los Angeles 10-10.

Big First Half

The Bears ruined the home coaching debut of the 49ers Monte Clark and they didn't waste any time in doing so.

After winning the toss and a Brian Baschnagel kick-off return, Chicago opened the game on its own 35-yard line.

Ten plays and three third-down conversions later, the Bears were on the San Francisco 10. At that point Payton carried for what looked to be lost yardage, but he escaped the grip of 49er Tommy Hart and dashed left for the game's first TD. Bob Thomas booted the PAT.

San Francisco came right back to score on its first series. Steve Mike-Mayer converted a 21-yard field goal attempt when Chicago's defense would allow nothing more. That put the 49ers within 7-3 as 4:13 remained in the first quarter. During the drive, Bear linebacker Doug Buffone was put out of the game with what was

diagnosed as a torn Achilles tendon. Ross Brubacher did a fine job filling in for Buffone, who watched the second half in street clothes.

You Take It

The Bears and 49ers played giveaway in the second period. Early in the period San Francisco punter Tom Wittum kicked to Virg Livers, who was in the process of making good return yardage when he fumbled.

Skip Vanderbundt picked up the loose ball and the 49ers had a first down at the Bear 44. But quarterback Jim Plunkett, who just did not have a good day, threw deep to Willie McGee on the next play, only to have the pass picked off. Bear corner back Allan Ellis had his sights set for Payton and he dropped him in the Bear end zone on the following play. The safety cut the visitors lead to 7-5.

The Bears were unable to get moving in their next series and Bob Parsons was asked to punt the ball away. He did that, but Ralph McGill, who NEVER fair catches for San Francisco probably should have.

He fumbled and Bear Dan Neal was there to make the recovery on San Francisco's 37. It was all Payton following the turnover, as he carried the final seven yards on a tackle-breaking TD gallop. A Thomas kick had Chicago on top 14-5.

A strong Bear defense (which totalled six sacks for 61 yards) kept the 49ers bottled up, forcing another punt with 30 seconds left in the first half. Mike Adamle was able to get in this time, blocking Wittum's punt through the end zone . . . good for an equalizing safety. A free kick gave the Bears one more second quarter scoring chance and they took advantage.

Bob Avellini found Ron Shanklin open for a 35-yard hook-up, putting Chicago into field goal position. Thomas then booted a 35-yard three-pointer as five seconds showed on the clock . . . Bears 19, 49ers 5 at halftime.

Ball Control

Coach Jack Pardee's squad came on to ex-

hibit more smothering defense and a planned ball control offense in the final 30 minutes.

Safety Doug Plank set the mood as he intercepted Plunkett on the 49ers third play of the second half.

Eight punts then followed before Chicago was ready to yield its first touchdown of the 1976 season. San Francisco took the ball over with nearly nine minutes to play in the game, on its own 12-yard line.

The elapsed time was 7:22 (and 17 plays) when the 49ers finally were allowed to enter the Bear end zone. Back Delvin Williams scored on a 13-yard pass from Plunkett with 1:26 remaining.

That's It

With Virg Carter in for a bruised Avellini, the Bears had no trouble in running the clock out from there. In fact, a 21-yard Payton run had Chicago down to the San Francisco 22 as the game ended.

The win was the first for the Bears in San Francisco since 1967 (28-14); and the first victory of any sort over the 49ers since 1968 (27-19).

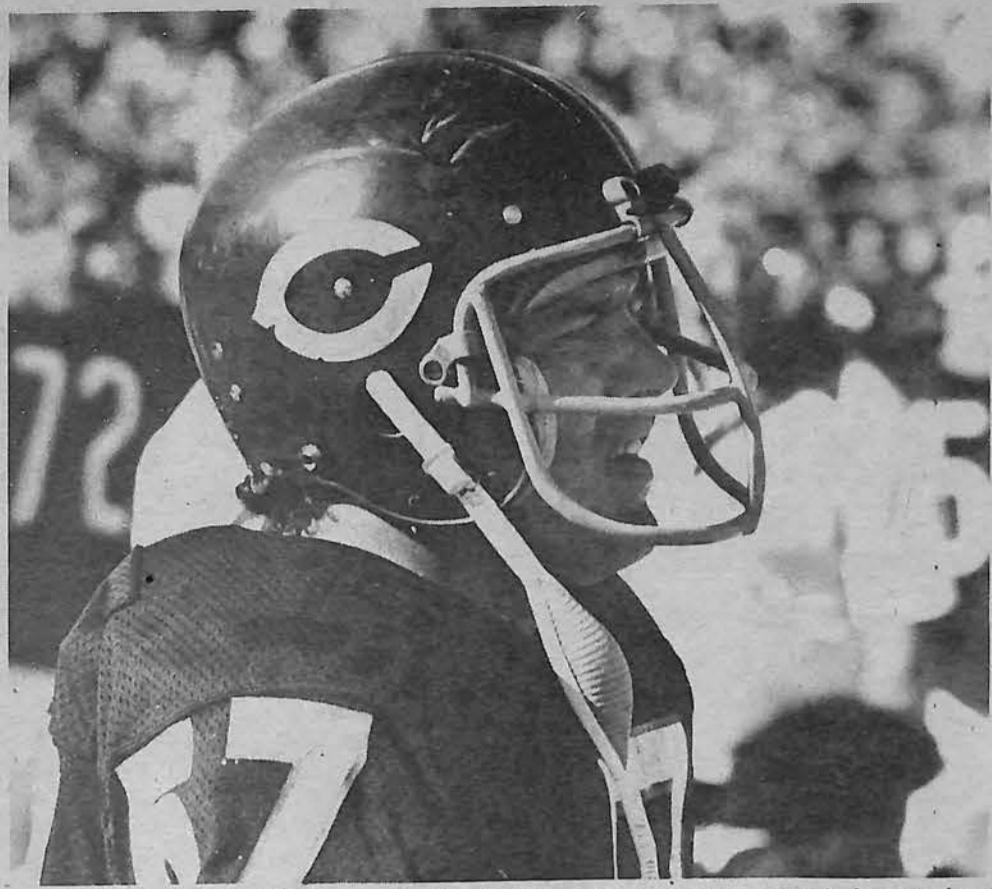
Following that 1968 win, San Francisco had claimed six consecutive victories over Chicago.

Injury Info

In addition to Buffone and Avellini (twisted ankle), those temporarily sidelined against the 49ers were: offensive guard Noah Jackson, defensive back Virgil Livers and defensive tackle Wally Chambers.

Overwhelming

The entire Bear defensive team was at times overwhelming against San Francisco, with Chambers, Jim Osborne, Roger Stillwell and Mike Hartenstein leading the way.



DEFENSE TO OFFENSE ... linebacker Don Rives takes a break from a hard afternoon's work . . .

. . . WHILE QUARTERBACK Bob Avellini monitors the word from above. Avellini's twisted ankle against San Francisco was not considered serious. (Photos by Bill Smith)



**FINAL TEAM STATISTICS
(September 19, 1976)**

	Chicago	San Fran
Total First Downs.....	15	16
Rushing.....	10	4
Passing.....	4	10
Penalty.....	1	2
Third Down Effic.....	5-14	7-17
Total Net Yds.....	259	190
Total Off Plays.....	59	70
Av Gain Per Play.....	4.4	2.7
Net Yds Rush.....	167	78
Total Rush Plays.....	43	35
Av Gain Per Rush.....	3.9	2.2
Net Yds Pass.....	92	112
Gross yds pass.....	92	173
Times Thrown/Yds		
Lost Att to Pass.....	0-0	6-61
Attempts/Completions.....	16-8	29-19
Had Intercepted.....	1	2
Av gain per pass play.....	5.8	3.2
Punts/Average.....	7-36.1	8-39.8
Had blocked.....	0	1
Fumbles/Ball Lost.....	1-1	4-1
Penalties/Yds.....	3-13	10-72
Total Ret Ydage.....	103	151
No & Yds Pnt Ret.....	5-43	4-46
No & Yds KO Ret.....	3-48	5-75
No & Yds Interc.....	2-12	1-30
No & Yds Misc Ret.....	0-0	0-0

Scoring Summary

Chicago.....	7 12 0 0—19
San Francisco.....	3 2 0 7—12
Chicago — Payton, 20-yard run (Thomas kick)	
San Fran — Mike-Mayer, 21-yard field goal	
San Fran — Safety, Payton tackled by Hart in end zone	
Chicago — Payton, 7-yard run (Thomas kick)	
Chicago — Safety, blocked punt by Adamle	
Chicago — Thomas, 35-yard field goal	
San Fran — Williams, 13-yard pass from Plunkett (Mike-Mayer kick)	
Attendance: 44,158, Time: 2:45	

A Homecoming

Over 80 former Chicago Bear players will be on hand this Sunday, which is Homecoming at Soldier Field. The Bear-Falcon game will be the 1,000th professional contest by a George Halas-owned team in Chicago. That figure dates to 1921 when Mr. Halas became owner of the Chicago Staleys; they were renamed the Bears in January of 1922.

CHICAGO

RUSHING	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Payton	28	148	5.3	26	2
Narper	12	21	1.8	6	0
Musso	1	3	3.0	3	0
Carter	1	0	0.0	0	0
Adamle	1	-5	-5.0	-5	0

PASSING	Att	CP	Yds	TD	LG	Int
Avellini	16	8	92	0	35	1

RECEIVING	No	Yds	LG	TD
Harper	4	44	18	0
Payton	3	13	11	0
Shanklin	1	35	35	0

INTERC.	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Plank	1	11	11.0	11	0
Ellis	1	1	1.0	1	0

Total.....	2	12	6.0	11	0
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PUNTING	No	Yds	Avg	LG
Parsons	7	253	36.1	49

PUNT RET.	No	FC	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Livers	5	0	41	13.7	23	0

Livers	5	0	41	13.7	23	0
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KO RET.	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Leonard	5	75	15.0	21	0

Leonard	5	75	15.0	21	0
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RECEIVING

Washington G	No	Yds	LG	TD
Washington G	5	34	12	0
Williams	4	35	13	1
Jackson	4	25	8	0
Mitchell T	3	49	19	0
McGee	2	19	13	0
O'Bradovich	1	11	11	0

INTERC.

Rhodes	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Rhodes	1	30	30.0	30	0

PUNTING

Wittum	No	Yds	Avg	LG
Wittum	8	318	39.8	48

PUNT RET.

McGill	No	FC	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
McGill	3	0	41	13.7	23	0

Taylor	No	FC	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Taylor	1	0	5	5.0	5	0

KO RET.

Leonard	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Leonard	5	75	15.0	21	0

Tackles

Vanderbundt	Solo	Assist
Vanderbundt	3	6

Hart	Solo	Assist
Hart	5	1

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Kevin Lamb

- A Bear Report Regular -

Starting Role Agrees with Osborne

The Osborne clan of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., was delighted last year to know that the Bears would play one Monday night game and another game against Miami. That meant they'd all be able to watch brother Jim play two games on television.

So everyone gathered 'round to watch those games. They had to watch closely. If anyone chose the wrong moment for a trip to the bathroom or the refrigerator, he missed Osborne completely. Jim left the bench for a total of two plays in those games.

Family a Big Help

"That was one of the worst things about it," Osborne said while he was still a bench adornment. "They're all used to seeing me play, and it was the hardest thing for me to have them call and ask me why I'm not playing. I can't give them an answer. I don't know myself. My family's a big help, though. They reassure me that they're still behind me."

Eventually, Osborne's days on the bench were behind him, too. He started the last three games last season at his familiar defensive left tackle spot. The position was ceded to him this summer when Roger Stillwell, who had beaten him out last season, was moved to defensive end.

"A lot of things happened last year," Osborne says now. He chuckles at the memory, but that doesn't necessarily mean it's a pleasant one. Osborne likes to laugh. He even kept laughing last year.

"On the outside, I'm dealing with it well, but inside it's burning the hell out of me," he said at the time.

Last Season

With a new coaching staff assuming command, Osborne had prepared harder for last season than he had for his first three. But in the fourth exhibition game he was hurt. Not badly, but enough that someone else had to play the next week. Just until Osborne was healthy again, he figured.

But once Roger Stillwell got into the line-up, there was no taking him out. "He played well," Osborne recalls. "It would have been wrong to pull Roger out and put me in."

That's easier for him to say now than it was for him to accept while he was peeling off an unblemished uniform every week. Osborne told himself he had to prove himself in practice. But after a few good practice weeks, he still wasn't playing. He became depressed. "The last time I sat on the bench was my freshman year in high school," he said. "I don't know how to deal with it."

LOOK OUT JOE ... Bear captain Jim Osborne bears down on Detroit QB Joe Reed during action at Soldier Field Sept. 12. The Chicago tackle recorded eight tackles in that game.

(Photo by Bill Smith)

Added to the indignity of the bench was the frustration of a contract deadlock. And then, trouble with the new coach. Jack Pardee began noticing that Osborne seemed to concentrate harder on his problems than his performance. Late in the season, he pointed it out to Osborne.

"We had a nice long talk," Osborne recalls. "Jack put everything on the table. He told me what he expected of me. I had a kind of don't-care attitude. He explained that I was being kind of negative. I told him I thought I could play."

A Starter

Before the 12th game, a home game with Detroit, Stillwell was hurt. Playing the final three games, Osborne finished second on the team to Wally Chambers with seven sacks. The Bears won two of the games.

"I don't like to get into my contract problem," Osborne says, smiling again, "but it just so happens I signed the same time I started playing."

"We really never had any differences," Pardee says. "I had no idea Ozzie hadn't signed his contract — I don't care to get into that aspect. I wasn't down on Ozzie last year. I know he was disappointed, but Roger was doing the job, too."

"Ozzie's a good player to have on a team. He gets himself up every week. He's not an up-and-down guy who might have a great game one week and tail off the next. He's a consistent performer."

He's also one of the Bears' five captains this season — along with Doug Buffone, Roland Harper, Jeff Sevy and rookie Brian Baschnagel. And in the opener against Detroit, he tied middle linebacker Don Rives for the team lead with eight tackles. Four of them were solos and one

was behind the line of scrimmage. He also batted down a pass and chased quarterback Joe Reed into the arms of teammates who sacked him.

Excited

"This team is jelling pretty good," he said after the Lion victory. "Everyone's pretty excited. Beating Detroit told us we can compete with anybody. Minnesota's the team to beat in the division, but Detroit's awfully good. I think we can compete with anybody in the division."

Every time they compete, more than four defensive linemen will be sweaty. The Bears wanted to do more shuttling on the line last season, but the team was in an ample state of disarray without substituting freely for the sake of substituting. So Osborne and the other back-up players did a lot of sitting.

The idea behind using backup players more this year is that it will keep the starters fresh and substitutes Royce Berry and Ron Rydalch sharp. "I think it's a good idea," Osborne says. "It helped a lot against Detroit. When you know you're playing the whole game, you might think you should save something in reserve for the next play. It's a nice feeling to know there are guys who can give you a breather and get the job done.

As long as Osborne's out of breath when the game ends.

"It's really rewarding after you know you've made a 100 per cent effort," he says. "You can be exhausted and feel like you got the hell beat out of you and you can barely make it to the ice box for something to drink. I don't feel good after the game unless I'm real tired. You can't get that way on the bench."

Kevin Lamb is a sports writer for the Chicago Daily News.





Sullivan



Haberman



Wievel

Superpickers



Karnac

Pickers have good start under their Belts

**BY TIM SULLIVAN, RANDY WIEVEL,
AND MIKE HABERMAN**

In the past, we have always tried to keep up a running account of our prediction accuracy to give the readers an idea about how we're doing during the season. Since we make our predictions two weeks in advance to meet our deadlines, we will always be one week behind in letting you know how we did each week. Keeping this in mind, here's how the Superpickers came out in the NFL's first week.

With Miami beating Buffalo in the first Monday-Nighter, we called eleven of the games correctly and only missed two. The weekly tossup went to Sullivan as the Raiders came from behind to beat Pittsburgh. Our .846 percentage was the highest we've ever had in an opening week.

Our winning teams in Week Number One included Dallas, Los Angeles, Washington, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Minnesota, Houston, Baltimore, Cleveland, and Chicago, and two of our calls were right on the head. The Colts downed New England by 14 (27-13) just like we said they would, and Chicago, as predicted, slipped past the Lions by seven (10-3). We only missed the Browns' spread by one point as they swamped the Jets by 21 (38-17). We thought Cleveland would win by 20.

A funny thing happened on the way to our two losses. The actual point spreads were almost perfect, but unfortunately, the wrong teams ended up winning. The Chargers beat Kansas City by 14 when we thought the Chiefs would take it by 13, and the Packers lost by 12 instead of zapping San Francisco by 9.

The amazing Karnac came through with a perfect week and knew the Oilers would fool around for awhile before finally blasting Tampa

Bay. He also warned us that Oakland would fall behind Pittsburgh and then come on strong at the end with some quick touchdowns to beat the Steelers by 3, but nobody except Sullivan believed the shifty sheik.

This is how we see Week Three in the NFL:

PITTSBURGH OVER NEW ENGLAND — According to Karnac's ratings, the Patriots are a "warm" team. In other words, not so hot. Steelers by 17.

RAMS OVER NEW YORK GIANTS — Bill Arnsparger's Giants are a vastly improved team. Put them in the Big Eight and they just might beat Oklahoma! Rams roll by 14.

MINNESOTA OVER DETROIT — Joe Reed, the Lion quarterback, is a gospel singer, which will help some when he meets Carl Eller, Alan Page, Jim Marshall, and Doug Sutherland. Hallelujah, as it's the Vikings by 17.

WASHINGTON OVER PHILADELPHIA — The Eagles dumped the Redskins twice last year, which is why George Allen won't let any of his players sleep with feathered pillows. The grumpy Redskins win by 10. Monday Nighter here.

OAKLAND OVER HOUSTON — Oakland's second of five straight road games. They've been away from home so much Al Davis is considering renaming the team the Ramada Inn Raiders. Give them the nod by 7.

SAN FRANCISCO OVER SEATTLE — Watch the Seahawks lay another egg. It'll be the 49ers by 13 sunnyside up!

MIAMI OVER NEW YORK JETS — Oddsmakers think Namath always plays well in Miami because he's got a bevy of girl friends there. We agree, so it's the Dolphins by 38, 24 or 36.

BUFFALO OVER TAMPA BAY — As far as we know, Bills quarterback Joe Ferguson doesn't

have any female acquaintance on Florida's east coast. Too bad, since he'd have plenty of time to fool around and still beat the Bucs big. Buffalo wins by 21.

ST. LOUIS OVER SAN DIEGO — The last time these teams met, the Redbirds won, 20-10, in Tokyo, Japan. Our scout out there, Harvey Hirohito, told us he expects St. Louis to nip the Banzais by 16. Sayonara, Chargers.

NEW ORLEANS OVER KANSAS CITY — Hank Stram will have his Saints higher than Tommy Burleson for his return to Kansas City. Henry should do some gloating as the Saints win by 3.

DENVER OVER CLEVELAND — The Broncos have never forgiven Browns owner Art Modell for insulting them when they were still in the AFL. And, if you were a singer named John, would you change your last name to Cleveland? Broncos by 1.

CINCINNATI OVER GREEN BAY — If Ken Anderson wanted to, he could wipe out all the teddy bears in the country by winning football toss games at county fairs. Give that guy three seconds and he'll hit somebody in the end zone every time! The Bengals should win by 14.

CHICAGO OVER ATLANTA — The Falcons can cause a lot of problems with their dangerous passing attack. Unfortunately, they're the ones who usually get in trouble, since they rely on it so much. The Bears should shut off Bartkowski as they win by 3.

BALTIMORE AGAINST DALLAS — The weekly tossup. Wievel can't comment on this game because he's been in a coma since the Phillies started to collapse. Sullivan and Haberman are taking the Cowboys and giving Wievel Baltimore since he wouldn't pick Dallas anyways.

Super Sports Quiz Number Ten

**BY TIM SULLIVAN, RANDY WIEVEL,
AND MIKE HABERMAN**

1. This super question comes from Harry Jablonski of Racine: Who played right field for the Yankees immediately before Babe Ruth?

- a. George Selkirk
- b. Casey Stengel
- c. George Halas
- d. George Blanda
- e. Curly Lambeau

2. Who caught the last touchdown pass in Super Bowl X?

- a. Drew Pearson
- b. Lynn Swann
- c. Percy Howard
- d. Golden Richards
- e. John Stallworth

3. Who was the NFL "Player of the Year" in 1972?

- a. John Brockington
- b. Dick Gordon
- c. Alan Page
- d. Larry Brown
- e. Merlin Olsen

4. This one's from Mike Metcalf of Stevens

Point, Wisc.: Which one of these players once scored 29 points in one quarter?

- a. Paul Hornung
- b. Don Hutson
- c. Norm Gartner
- d. Dave Roman
- e. Donnie Anderson

5. Who led the Chicago Bears in forcing opponents' fumbles last year?

- a. Doug Buffone
- b. Wally Chambers
- c. Jim Osborne
- d. Waymond Bryant
- e. Mike Hartenstein

6. Which one of these guys broadcasts games for the Los Angeles Rams?

- a. Sandy Koufax
- b. Don Drysdale
- c. Johnny Podres
- d. Preacher Roe
- e. Don Newcombe

7. Which player scored a safety in the last Super Bowl?

- a. Dwight White
- b. L.C. Greenwood
- c. Reggie Harrison

- d. Glen Edwards
- e. Mitch Hoopes

8. Who is the oldest player in the NFL right now?

- a. Jim Marshall
- b. Ron McDole
- c. Billy Kilmer
- d. Earl Morrall
- e. Fred Cox

9. Who scored Baltimore's only touchdown in the 1965 NFL Western Division Playoff between the Colts and Packers?

- a. Tom Matte
- b. Don Shinnick
- c. Bob Boyd
- d. Mike Curtis
- e. John Mackey

10. Which one of these players is nicknamed "Lurch"?

- a. Ed Jones
- b. Julius Adams
- c. Charlie Philyaw
- d. John Dutton
- e. Dave Butz

(Answers on Page 11)

1976 Regular Season - Game 3

Atlanta Falcons at Chicago Bears

October 3 - 1 p.m. CDT

Soldier Field - Chicago, Illinois

Undefeated Chicago (2-0) takes on winless Atlanta (0-2) when the Bears return home Sunday. Last week, Jack Pardee's squad out-fought San Francisco 19-12, while the Falcons dropped a 24-10 decision at Detroit.

A Big Fourth Quarter

After building a 10-0 lead in the third quarter things just did not go right for Atlanta. The Falcons top draft choice, back Bubba Bean, did have things going his way early in the game.

The rookie from Texas A&M started in place of veteran Dave Hampton. Bean made that move look good on the part of coach Marion Campbell. The only score in the first half came on a five-yard run by Bean and Nick Mike-Mayer's extra-point put Atlanta up 7-0 at the intermission.

With 10:48 left in the third quarter Mike-Mayer added a 41-yard field goal and it was 10-0 Atlanta. But the fun was over for the visiting

team as Greg Landry came in to sub for Lion starter Joe Reed.

Landry scored from five yards out and Errol Mann contributed a 32-yard field goal to tie the score at 10-all. Detroit went ahead on a fake field goal as holder Reed hit linebacker Ed O'Neil with a 29-yard scoring strike. Rookie James Hunter put the Falcons out of the game on a 38-yard intercepted pass return for a touchdown; Steve Bartkowski went all the way at QB for the Falcons.

Despite allowing 24 fourth-quarter points, Atlanta executed soundly on offense. A steady running game was the Falcon's best attribute and had not their drive been stopped at the one-foot line late in the first half the game's outcome may have been different.

The Opener

The Falcons had opened the regular season losing at home, 30-14, to Los Angeles. Reserve

Ram quarterback Pat Haden worked well in relief of injured Ron Jaworski in the second half and watched as his defense also played it tough.

QB Bartkowski was sacked five times in that game; yet he did complete 16 of 33 passes for 193 yards. He also directed the Falcons to a 7-6 halftime lead.

But on the ground Atlanta could only muster 62 yards, 29 by Haskel Stanback and 24 by Hampton. On the other hand, Los Angeles rushed for 232 yards.

Atlanta Pre-Season (2-4)

In the pre-season, Atlanta lost its first four games, including a 17-3 defeat at the hands of the expansion Buccaneers. The Falcons did finish strong with consecutive exhibition wins over Baltimore (21-7) and Green Bay (26-7).

Coach Campbell, who is in his second full-year as Atlanta's head coach, had his contract extended for another year during the pre-season by Falcon owner Rankin Smith.

Offense

Strengths on this year's Falcon team begin with the receiving corps, topped by transplanted Viking wide receiver John Gilliam and tight end Jim Mitchell.

The best rusher is Hampton, who gained 1,002 yards last season for a 4.0 per carry average. Bartkowski, the quarterback that made the Golden Bears of California famous, is still considered the team franchise in Atlanta. His rookie totals in 1975 showed a 45 per cent pass completion mark (115-255), good for 1,662 yards and 13 aerial touchdowns.

Defense

Ends Claude Humphrey and John Zook were usually the tough guys that other teams had to contend with when facing the Falcon defense.

But Zook was traded to St. Louis and Humphrey has now been joined by Roy Hilton and Ron East. Linebacker Don Hansen also was lost, to Seattle, and so it is up to Tommy Nobis, in the middle, to stem the opposing offensive tide.

Safety Ray Easterling is the best of the Falcon's defensive secondary. The five-year veteran had 99 total tackles last season, while also intercepting three passes.

Punter John James hit the longest punt of his career in 1975 (75 yards) and was named to the NFC's All-Pro squad.

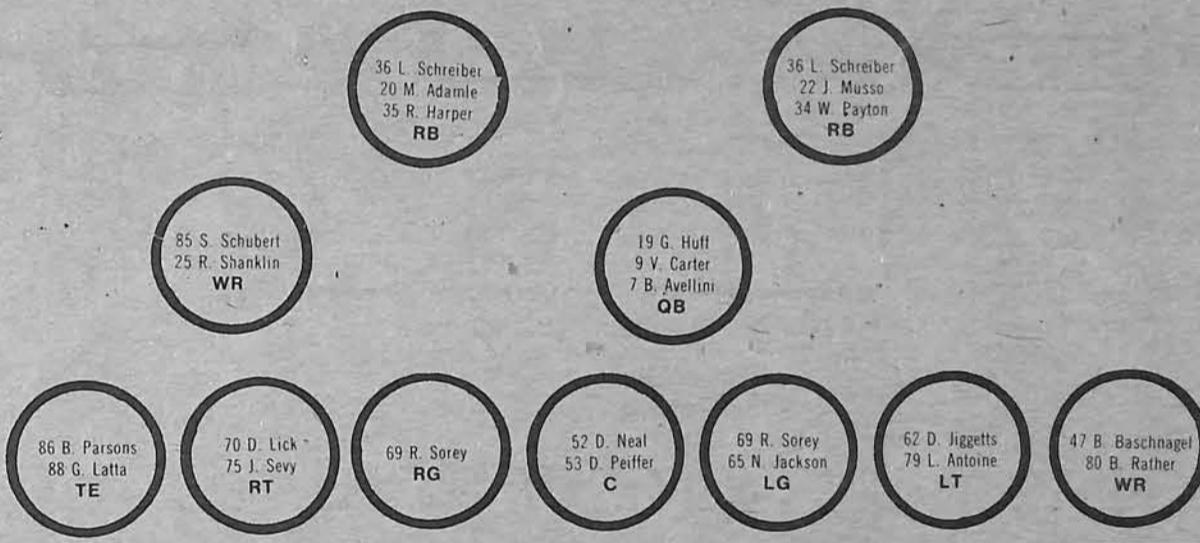
The Series

The Bear-Falcon series dates to Atlanta's first NFL season, 1966. Chicago won that initial meeting, in Wrigley Field, 23-6. Since that time, Atlanta has won five of the last seven contests to hold a 5-3 overall lead.

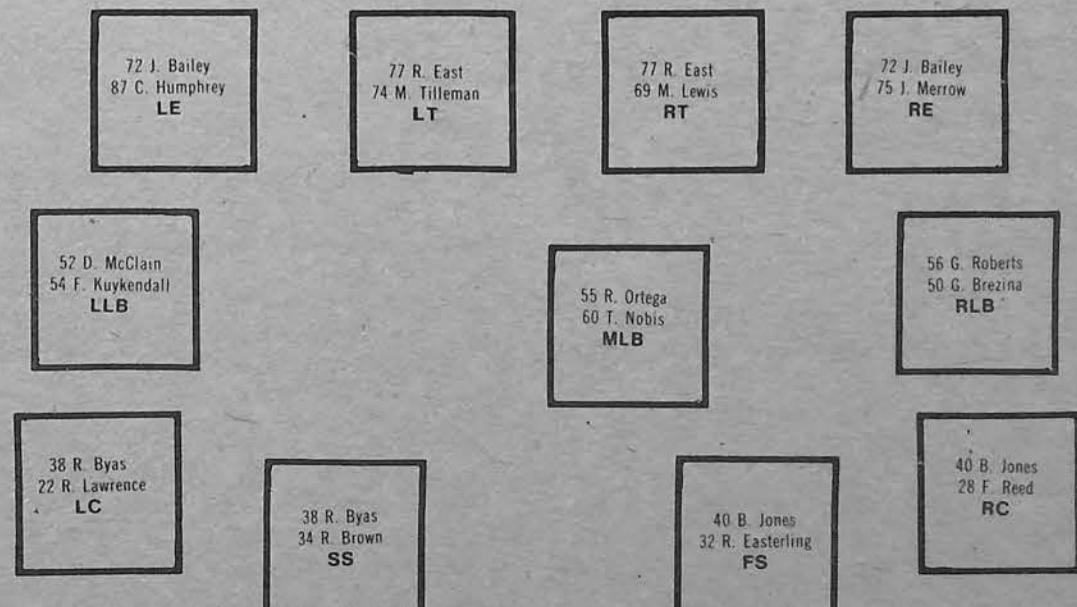
The last time the two teams met was October 13, 1974 in Atlanta, a game won by the Falcons 13-10. In Atlanta's last Soldier Field appearance, Atlanta was victorious 37-21.

Chicago's last win vs the Falcons came November 1, 1970, 23-14, in Atlanta.

Bears Offense

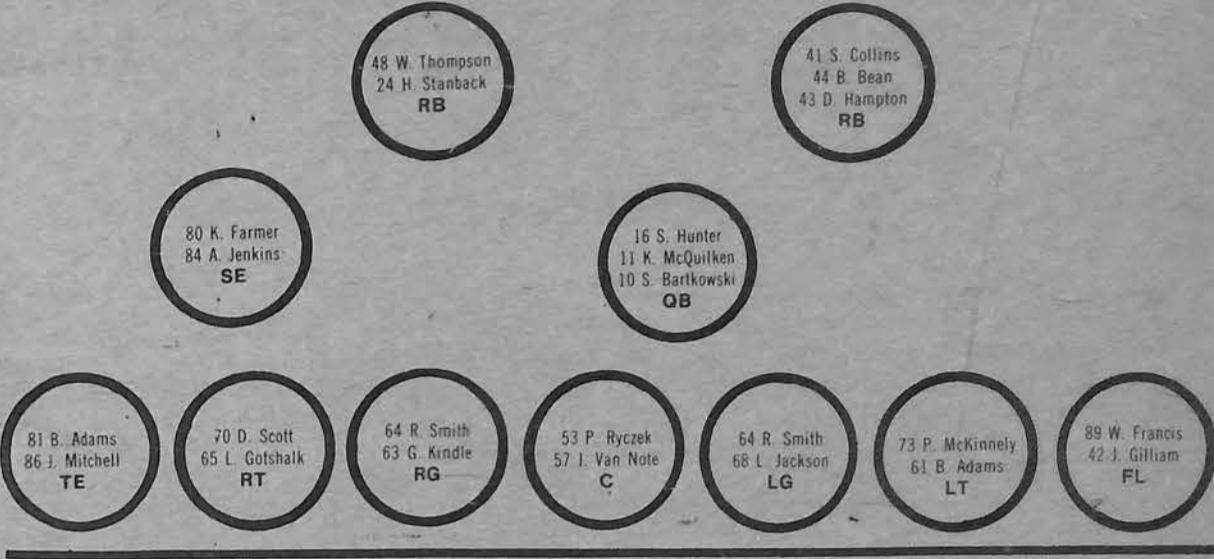
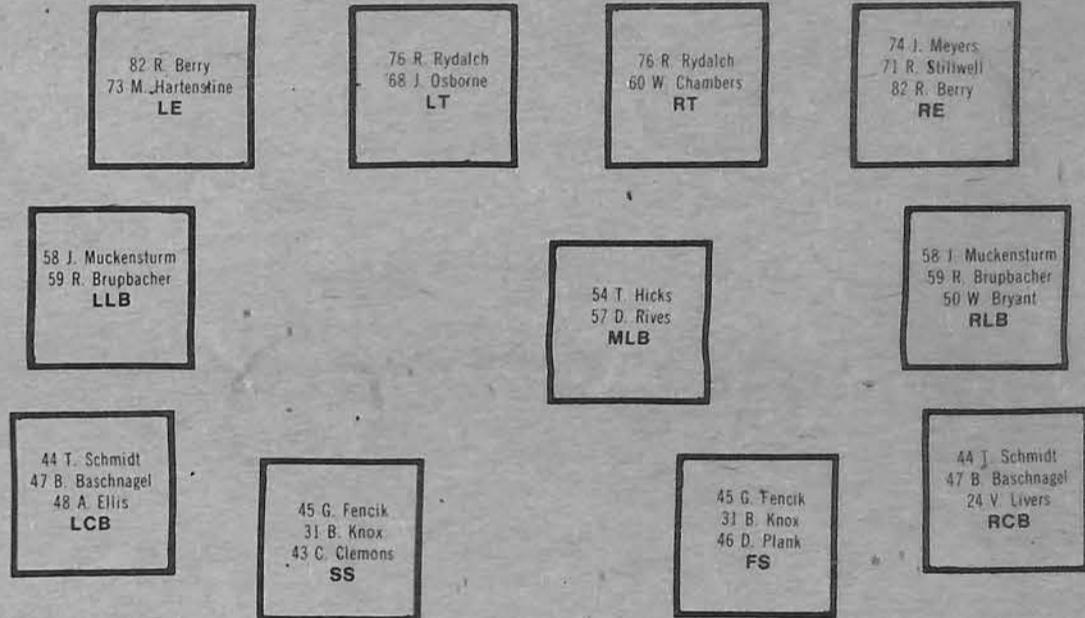


Falcons Defense



Numerically**Bears**

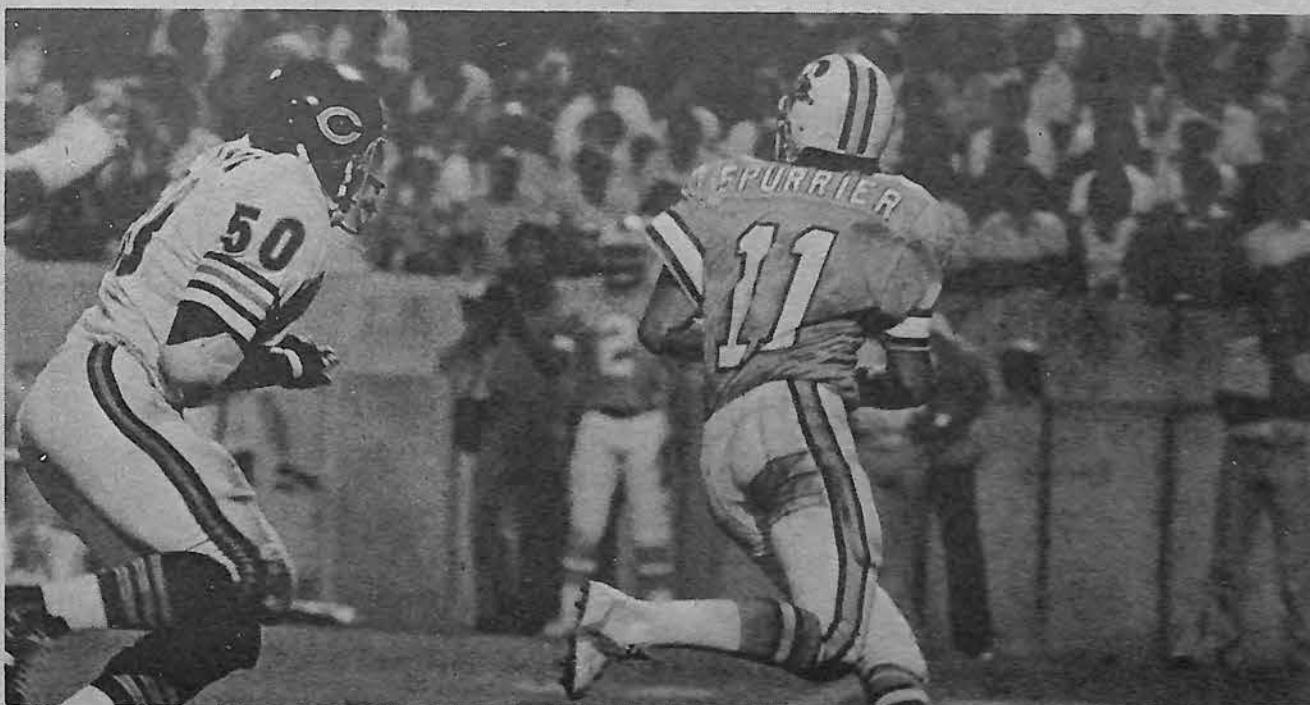
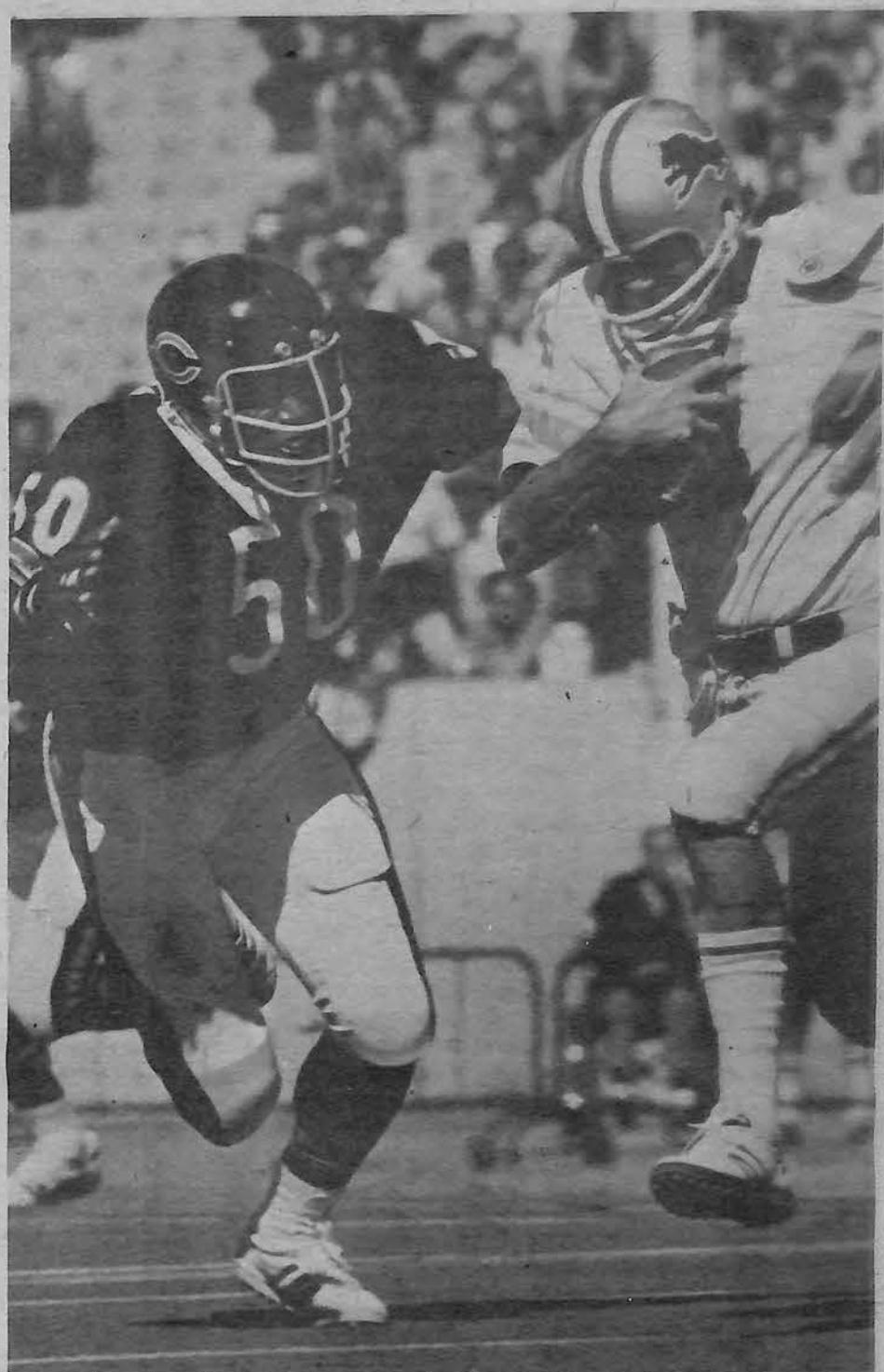
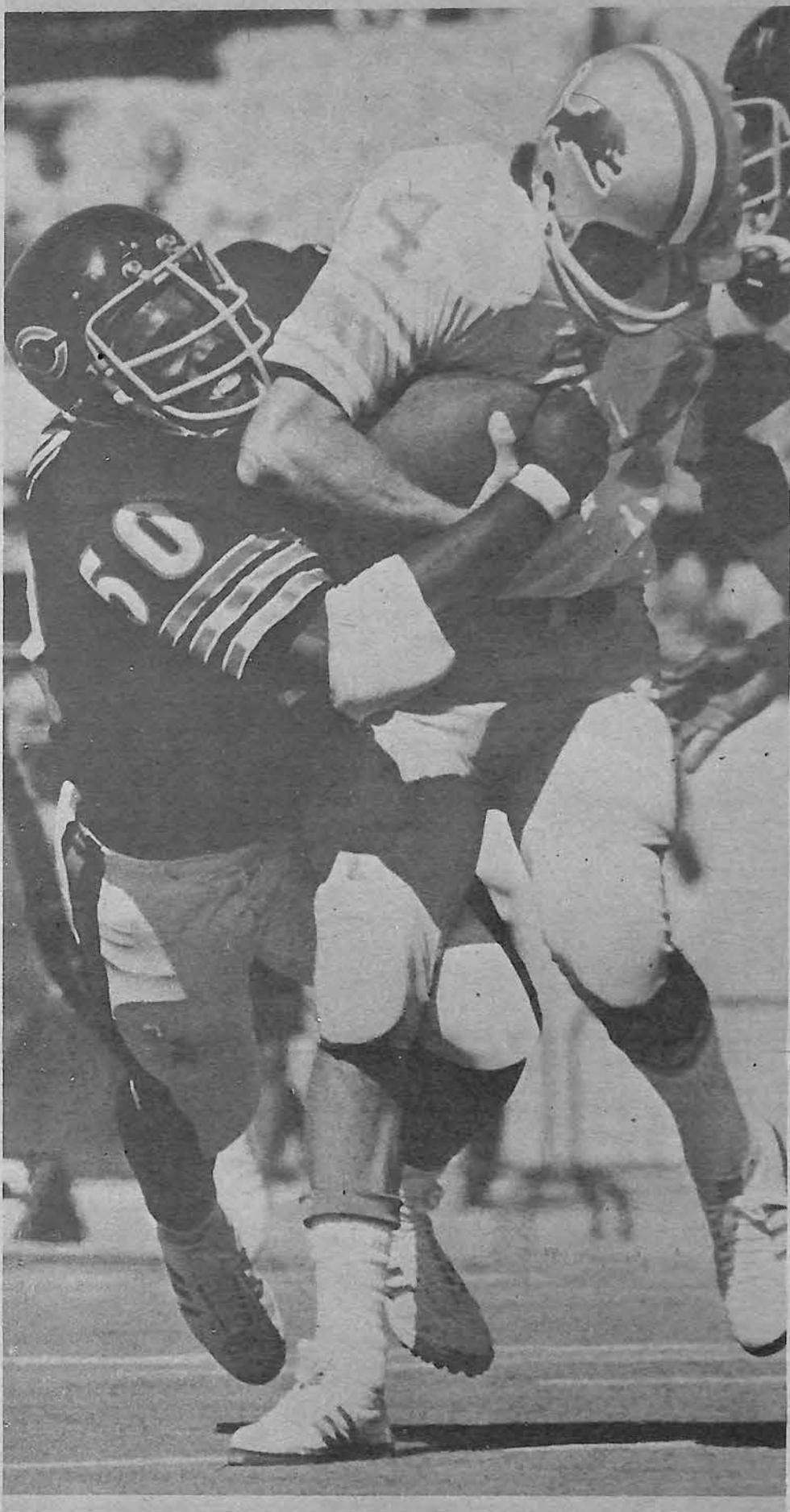
No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Age	Yr	College
7	Avellini, Bob	QB	6-2	211	23	2	Maryland
9	Carter, Virg	QB	6-1	190	30	7	Brigham Young
16	Thomas, Bob	K	5-10	177	24	2	Notre Dame
19	Huff, Gary	QB	6-1	199	25	4	Florida State
20	Adamle, Mike	RB	5-9	198	26	6	Northwestern
22	Musso, Johnny	RB	5-11	201	26	2	Alabama
24	Livers, Virgil	CB-PR	5-8	176	24	2	W. Kentucky
25	Shanklin, Ron	WR	6-1	187	28	7	N. Texas State
31	Knox, Bill	CB-S	5-9	190	25	3	Purdue
34	Payton, Walter	RB	5-10	203	22	2	Jackson State
35	Harper, Roland	RB	5-11	215	23	2	Louisiana Tech
36	Schreiber, Larry	RB	6-0	205	29	6	Tennessee Tech
43	Clemons, Craig	S	5-11	195	27	5	Iowa
44	Schmidt, Terry	CB	6-0	177	24	3	Ball State
45	Fencik, Gary	S	6-1	190	22	2	Yale
46	Plank, Doug	S	5-11	198	23	2	Ohio State
47	Baschnagel, Brian	CB-KR	6-0	195	22	R	Ohio State
48	Ellis, Alain	CB	5-10	180	25	4	UCLA
50	Bryant, Waymond	LB	6-3	239	24	3	Tennessee State
52	Neal, Dan	CG	6-4	257	27	4	Kentucky
53	Peiffer, Dan	C	6-3	254	25	2	SE Missouri
54	Hicks, Tom	LB	6-4	235	23	1	Illinois
55	Buffone, Doug	LB	6-2	229	32	11	Louisville
57	Rives, Don	LB	6-2	230	25	3	Texas Tech
58	Muckensturm, Jerry	LB	6-4	226	22	R	Arkansas State
59	Brupbacher, Ross	LB	6-3	220	28	4	Texas A&M
60	Chambers, Wally	DT	6-6	250	25	4	E. Kentucky
62	Jiggetts, Dan	T	6-4	274	22	R	Harvard
65	Jackson, Noah	G	6-2	265	25	2	Tampa
68	Osborne, Jim	DT	6-3	248	27	5	Southern
69	Sorey, Revie	G	6-2	270	22	2	Illinois
70	Lick, Dennis	T	6-3	271	22	R	Wisconsin
71	Stillwell, Roger	DE	6-5	254	24	2	Stanford
73	Hartenstine, Mike	DE	6-3	256	23	2	Penn State
74	Meyers, Jerry	DE	6-4	252	22	R	N. Illinois
75	Sevy, Jeff	T-G	6-5	260	25	2	California
76	Rydalch, Ron	DT	6-4	262	24	2	Utah
79	Antoine, Lionel	T	6-6	266	26	5	S. Illinois
80	Rather, Bo	WR	6-1	188	25	4	Michigan
82	Berry, Royce	DE	6-3	239	30	8	Houston
85	Schubert, Steve	WR	5-10	187	25	3	Massachusetts
86	Parsons, Bob	TE-P	6-5	241	26	5	Penn State
88	Latta, Greg	TE	6-3	228	23	2	Morgan State

Falcons Offense**Bears Defense****SPECIALISTS****Falcons BEARS**

10 S. Bartkowski	34 W. Payton
6 J. James	86 B. Parsons
P	P
50 G. Brezina	34 W. Payton
12 N. Mike-Mayer	16 B. Thomas
K/KO	K
16 S. Hunter	79 L. Antoine
6 J. James	16 B. Thomas
H	KO
57 J. Van Note	85 S. Schubert
53 P. Ryczek	47 B. Baschnagel
PC/KC	24 V. Livers
34 R. Brown	PR
22 R. Lawrence	34 W. Payton
38 R. Byas	47 B. Baschnagel
41 S. Collins	KOR
PR	53 D. Peiffer
38 W. Francis	52 D. Neal
44 B. Bean	PC
41 S. Collins	53 D. Peiffer
38 R. Byas	52 D. Neal
KOR	KC
19 G. Huff	52 D. Neal
9 V. Carter	H

Falcons

No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Age	Yr	College
6	James, John	P	6-3	200	27	5	Florida
10	Bartkowski, Steve	QB	6-4	213	23	2	California
11	McQuilken, Kim	QB	6-2	203	25	3	Lehigh
12	Mike-Mayer, Nick	PK	5-9	187	26	4	Temple
16	Hunter, Scott	QB	6-2	205	28	6	Alabama
22	Lawrence, Rolland	CB	5-10	179	25	4	Tabor
24	Stanback, Haskel	RB	6-0	210	24	3	Tennessee
28	Reed, Frank	DB	5-11	193	22	R	Washington
32	Easterling, Ray	S	6-0	192	26	5	Richmond
34	Brown, Ray	S	6-2	202	27	6	W. Tex. St.
38	Byas, Rick	DB	5-9	180	25	3	Wayne St.
40	Jones, Bob	DB	6-2	193	25	4	Va. Union
41	Collins, Sonny	RB	6-1	196	23	R	Kentucky
42	Gilliam, John	WR	6-1	187	31	10	S. Carolina St.
43	Hampton, Dave	RB	6-0	202	29	8	Wyoming
44	Bean, Bubba	RB	5-11	195	22	R	Texas A&M
48	Thompson, Woody	RB	6-1	228	24	2	Miami
50	Brezina, Greg	LB	6-1	221	30	9	Houston
52	McLain, Dewey	LB	6-3	236	22	R	E. Central U.
53	Ryczek, Paul	C	6-2	230	24	3	Virginia
54	Kuykendall, Fulton	LB	6-5	225	23	2	UCLA
55	Ortega, Ralph	LB	6-2	220	23	2	Florida
56	Roberts, Guy	LB	6-1	220	26	5	Maryland
57	Van Rose, Jeff	C	6-2	247	30	8	Kentucky
60	Nobis, Tommy	LB	6-2	243	32	11	Texas
61	Adams, Brent	T	6-5	256	24	2	UT-Chattanooga
63	Kindle, Greg	T	6-4	265	26	3	Tenn. St.
64	Smith, Royce	G	6-3	250	27	5	Georgia
65	Gotshalk, Len	G	6-4	259	26	6	Humboldt St.
68	Jackson, Larron	G	6-3	260	27	6	Missouri
69	Lewis, Mike	DT	6-4	261	27	6	Arkansas AM&N
70	Scott, Dave	T	6-4	285	22	R	Kansas
72	Bailey, Jim	DT	6-5	260	28	7	Kansas
73	McKinney, Phil	T	6-4	248	22	R	UCLA
74	Tileman, Mike	DT	6-7	278	32	10	Montana
75	Merrow, Jeff	DT	6-4	230	23	2	W. Virginia
77	East, Ron	DT	6-4	250	33	9	Montana St.
80	Farmer, Karl	WR	5-11	165	22	R	Pittsburgh
81	Adams, Bob	TE	6-2	225	30	8	Pacific
84	Jenkins, Alfred	WR	5-10	172	24	2	Morris Brown
86	Mitchell, Jim	TE	6-1	236	28	8	Prairie View
87	Humphrey, Claude	DE	6-5	265	32	9	Tenn. St.
89	Francis, Wallace	WR	5-11	190	24	4	Arkansas AM&N



CAUTION, LINEBACKER AT WORK . . . quarterbacks proceed with extreme care. The Bears right side linebacker Waymond Bryant is featured this week for his dedicated efforts so far in 1976. His specialty happens to be opposing QBs. Above and to the left he is seen irritating Detroit's Joe Reed and at left he is hounding Tampa Bay's Steve Spurrier.

Bryant and the rest of the Chicago defense has been a team strong point early this season.

(Top two photos by Bill Smith)

BRUISER SPORTIPS

by Hudson and Long



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BEAR STATS

At the right are the one-game Bears' offensive statistics. Team and individual totals will appear here each week throughout the season. The totals WILL NOT include results from the preceding Sunday game. Defensive statistics can be found

ANSWERS TO SUPER SPORTS QUIZ NUMBER TEN

1. c — George Halas hit .091 for the 1919 Yankees. Ruth was the next Yankee right-fielder in 1920.

2. c — Percy Howard caught a 34-yard touchdown pass from Staubach.

3. d — Redskin running back Larry Brown.

4. b — Green Bay's Hutson scored 29 points in one quarter against the Lions on October 7, 1945.

5. a — Doug Buffone caused five fumbles in 1975 to lead the Bears.

6. b — Don Drysdale teams up with Dick Enberg and Steve Bailey to do the Ram games on KMPC.

7. c — Pittsburgh's Reggie Harrison blocked a Dallas punt that trickled out of the end zone for a two-pointer.

8. d — Now that George Blanda's gone, Earl is the oldest player at 42.

9. b — Linebacker Shinnick scored on a 25-yard fumble return. Green Bay won the game, 13-10.

10. c — Oakland's giant defensive lineman Charlie Philyaw is called "Lurch" in honor of the butler on "Addams Family".

NOTE TO READERS: Some of you have recently been coming up with very good trivia questions. If you have a special one you'd like to have printed, send it to: Tim Sullivan, c/o SUPERQUIZZERS, 1555 Water Street, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481.

DEFENSE

Player	Total	Solo	Asst.	Sack-Yards
Rives	8	5	3	2/1
Osborne	8	4	4	0/0
Chambers	7	4	3	1/9
Bryant	6	6	0	1/2
Plank	6	4	2	0/0
Clemons	6	3	3	0/0
Livers	5	5	0	0/0
Ellis	5	5	0	0/0
Buffone	5	3	2	0/0
Hartenstine	4	0	4	1/12
Stillwell	2	2	0	0/0
Baschnagel	2	2	0	0/0
Rydalch	1	1	0	1/8
Muckensturm	1	1	0	0/0
Hicks	1	1	0	0/0
Knox	1	0	1	0/0
Berry	1	0	1	0/0
Schmidt	1	0	1	0/0
Adamle	0	0	0	0/0

Bears 1-0**RESULTS AND ATTENDANCE**

S 12 (S) Bears 10; Lions 3	57,359
S 19 49ers at San Francisco	1:00
S 26 Falcons at Chicago	1:00
O 3 Redskins at Chicago	1:00
O 10 Vikings at Minnesota	1:00
O 17 Rams at Los Angeles	1:00
O 24 Cowboys at Dallas	1:00
O 31 Vikings at Chicago	1:00
N 7 Raiders at Chicago	1:00
N 14 Packers at Chicago	1:00
N 21 Lions at Detroit	1:00
N 28 Packers at Green Bay	1:00
D 5 Seahawks at Seattle	1:00
D 12 Broncos at Chicago	1:00

CHICAGO BEARS STATISTICS

	RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD						
Latta	2	87	43.5	58	0							
Schubert	1	23	23.0	23	0							
Payton	1	17	17.0	17	0							
Parsons	1	9	9.0	9	0							
Rather	1	7	7.0	7	0							
Harper	1	3	3.0	3	0							
Shanklin	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0							
BEARS TOTAL	8	143	17.9	58	0							
Opp. Total	15	166	11.1	52	0							
INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD							
BEARS TOTAL	9	331	36.8	1	2	62						
Opp. Total	7	320	45.7	2	3	69						
PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG						
Parsons	9	331	36.8	1	2	62						
BEARS TOTAL	9	331	36.8	1	2	62						
Opp. Total	7	320	45.7	2	3	69						
PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD						
Livers	3	0	2	0.7	2	0						
BEARS TOTAL	3	0	2	0.7	2	0						
Opp. Total	5	0	13	2.6	6	0						
KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD							
Baschnagel	2	57	28.5	42	0							
BEARS TOTAL	2	57	28.5	42	0							
Opp. Total	3	62	20.7	31	0							
SCORING	TDR	TDP	TDRt	FG	PAT	TP						
Musso	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	6						
Thomas	0	0	0	1/2	1/1	4						
BEARS TOTAL	1	0	0	1/2	1/1	10						
Opp. Total	0	0	0	1/2	0/0	3						
Thomas FGs: (51, 27)												
Opp FGs: (27, 31)												
PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct. TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	LG	Lost/Att.	Rating
Avellini	16	7	120	43.8	7.50	0	0.0	0	0.0	58	2/17	69.8
Parsons	1	1	23	100.0	23.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	23	0/0	119
BEARS TOTAL	17	8	143	47.1	8.41	0	0.0	0	0.0	58	2/17	76.4
Opp. Total	35	15	166	42.9	4.74	0	0.0	0	0.0	52	6/32	57.6



Everyfan

by Elliott Anderson

Off-setting Omens

What follows is a story of superstition and logic, a theory of off-setting omens.

Through Pat McCaskey of the Bears front office and a Mr. A.G. Hasse of International Harvester, I've made arrangements to sit through the season opener against Detroit with two visitors from Holland. It seems like a natural story — European impressions of American football, — a good idea.

At twelve-fifteen, Bear Report photographer Bill Smith and I walk over to the south end of section 14. Nobody in the general vicinity fits the description of the two visitors, so while we're waiting, we watch the pre-game warm ups. I notice with some dismay that Brian Baschnagel, who's distinguished himself in the pre-season with a number of fine run backs, is dropping practice punts, one, two, three in a row. A bad omen, I think, dropped punts in practice can mean costly fumbles during the game,

"You see that?" I ask Smith.

"What?"

"Baschnagel."

"Yeah, so?"

"He keeps dropping the ball. Think it means anything?"

Smith grins and looks up. "Yeah. The sun's in his eyes."

I shake my head. Obviously Smith doesn't know the first thing about the theory of off-setting omens, doesn't realize that unless Baschnagel can off-set — how doesn't matter — the team's in real trouble.

We make small talk with a couple of fans from Oak Park, and from time to time ask new arrivals, "You from Holland? You with International Harvester?", but nobody is, it's getting late, and I'm beginning to worry.

Down on the field, meanwhile, Avellini's dancing in an imaginary pocket, popping short passes to his backs. He hits a couple over the middle, then starts working the sideline routes, and just like that, one, two, three, he misses. My heart contracts. First it's Bashnagel, and now it's Avellini. A double off-set, Bad medicine. The odds against a win are formidable now. And if the visitors from Holland don't show up? I don't even want to think about a triple off-set.

Finally, at a quarter to one, Smith gives up and walks over to the Bears' side of the field. I hang around section 14, hoping against hope, and then with less than two minutes to game time, I scribble a note saying I'll be back at the half, ask the lady from Oak Park to give it to the first person she sees who looks new to the game, and make my way to the press box just in time to see Bob Thomas' first kickoff of the new season go out of bounds.

As I say, I'm superstitious, and I'm counting: dropped punts, overthrown passes, visitors who don't make the game, and an illegal procedure penalty on the first play of the year, at which point Thomas kicks off again and James Hunter comes within a shirt tail of breaking it for a touchdown. I wince. We haven't got a prayer. But then, through the binoculars, I see who made the saving tackle: Baschnagel! Bashnagel's got an off-set by god! Now if Avellini can just hit on a crucial down and out, or better yet, on a sideline route, and if somebody can redeem Thomas — say if Parsons can hit a field-goal (by the logic of the theory of off-setting omens Parsons gets to redeem Thomas because they both kick the ball), then maybe we've got a chance after all, and maybe, all things being equal, just maybe I'll locate my visitors at half-time.

As soon as the gun sounds I negotiate the crowded aisles. Smith is back with his camera and the lady from Oak Park is there with my note, but nobody's seen two visitors from Holland.

It would be an exaggeration to say I entertain visions of doom at this point, but I am disappointed. I've counted on a frame for this column, and besides, the theory of off-setting omens is no joke. Baschnagel's redeemed himself, we're down by only three, which isn't bad considering, and if I do find my visitors that leaves only Avellini and Thomas to go.

The early moments of the third quarter do nothing to improve our situation. I get back to the box late — no visitors at half-time — only to see Parsons punt short. Then, after Detroit stalls, Herman Weaver boots one for a Soldier Field record 69 yards. Which is where it all comes together, what has to be one of the most satisfying omen-offsetting sequence of ten plays in Bears' history.

After Payton and the offensive line fail to convert on third and one, Parsons' punt is blocked by Ed O'Neil. The ball squirts into the air, Detroit's Garth Ten Napel puts a hand on it, and Knox recovers. The play is ruled a Detroit fumble, O'Neil receives no credit for his block (an offset by default). Parsons is credited with a 14 yard punt (an off-set under the circumstances), and the Bears, via Knox, are credited with the football, which is an off-set any day. Clearly the gods are smiling. And sure enough, on the very next play, Avellini hits Latta down the sideline. Five plays later, Johnny Musso goes over for the score, and that, plus a fourth quarter Thomas field goal (the penultimate off-set but one), is that.

Or almost that.

The following day, as I'm working on this column, the phone rings. It's Pat McCaskey again. "Those people were there all along," he tells me, "in seats at the north end of the section. They saw the whole thing. If you still want to talk to them . . ." and he gives me a number where they can be reached. I'm delighted, of course. Not only is the logic of the theory complete now, but I get to talk to the visitors from Holland after all.

Hollanders

Their names are Paul Gogovers and Diane Langenaken and they work for the DAF Co. in Antwerp, Mr. Gogovers as a systems analyst and Ms. Langenaken as an economist. Neither had seen an American football game before and each was impressed. "By what most of all?" I ask. "By the last two minutes," Mr. Gogovers replies, "When the Lions tried to get their seven points to equalize." "By the quarterback's deceptions," Ms. Langenaken adds, "and by the sound of helmets and pads banging together."

We talk about the crowds at soccer matches in Holland and how fans everywhere express aggression in the stadium which they can't express anywhere else. "Imagine yelling 'kill the referee' on the street," is how Ms. Langenaken puts it.

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**DOUG BUFFONE'S
CHICAGO BEAR REPORT**
500 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 700
Chicago, Illinois 60611



Fran Spielman

- A Bear Report Regular -

Haracz Enjoying Return to Chicago

It was just one of those days, when absolutely nothing goes right. But as far as Ted Haracz was concerned, it might as well have been the end of the world.

First, it was the weather.

Thanks to a severe snow storm, the natural turf at Green Bay's famed Lambeau Field looked more like the icing on a vanilla layer cake than a football field.

And — let's not forget the competition.

Thanks to a surprisingly scrappy performance by Bart Starr's Packers, Green Bay made it a (vanilla layer) cakewalk past the Chicago Bears, 28-7, to notch the ninth Chicago defeat of the 1975 season.

The Ride Home

And — to add insult to injury — there was the plane ride home to Chicago.

It was delayed. And delayed. And delayed. So long, that the ragged, dejected Bears were unable to return to their respective living rooms, to lick their respective wounds, until very late that Sunday evening.

For rookie PR man Ted Haracz, "the longest day" wasn't even over when the plane finally touched down at O'hare Field.

Instead of forgetting the Green Bay debacle as fast as he could, Haracz was forced to belabor the point, pounding out a four-page post-mortem release, for distribution at the Bears' weekly press brunch the next morning.

Welcome to the world of big-time pro football, Ted Haracz.

"If you want to talk about all-time lows, well, that was mine without a question," the 5'7" Haracz said, looking out from behind his oversized walnut desk at the Bears plush new Jackson Street offices.

A Fan

"I've been a frustrated Bear fan all my life, so when I joined the club last January ('75), I thought I was well aware of the tremendous remodelling job that had to be done," said the former sports editor at the Northwest side's Weber High School.

"But after that horrendous Green Bay game, we were all lower than anyone in our organization ever imagined we could get. There it was, the 11th game of my first season in professional football, we'd only won two games. And it didn't look like we were about to get any better."

Not exactly what you would call an ideal package for your average NFL public relations man to relate to the public.

In fact, it would have been perfectly natural for Haracz to have begun questioning his own sanity.

Questions like, why on earth had he ever abandoned that comfortable five-year niche he'd grooved for himself at Purdue University.

FORMER PURDUE Sports Information Director Ted Haracz returned to his native Chicago in 1975. He is a 1964 graduate of the College of St. Thomas (Minn.)

Photo by Bill Smith)

But somehow, depressing as that "rookie" season was, Ted Haracz never once even thought to ask himself the question.

Bear Rookies

He says he was too busy having faith in all the other so-called "rookies" Papa Bear George Halas had hired to re-model his professional football team. All of them rookies who never once got their hands on the football.

"If you know Jim Finks, and you know Jack Pardee, you just know they're winners, and they're gonna succeed in anything they do," Haracz said. "But when you're talking about rebuilding an entire professional football team almost from scratch, you're not talking about a job that can be done overnight."

"Jim Finks is not the kind of general manager who's gonna panic, squander draft picks, and make irrational trades, simply because all the fans and writers in town are hungry for a winner," he said.

"He's outlined a timetable for doing things the right way. And if you want to build a truly solid football team — not just ANOTHER flash in the pan — there's just no room for cutting any corners."

No room whatsoever.

Not on the player roster. Not in the coaching ranks. Not in the ticket booth. And certainly not in the front office. In order to build a winning football team, the general manager has to bring in good people in all phases of his team operation.

Enter Ted Haracz, to "relate to the public."

"The Bears and I have had a compatible relationship right from the start," Haracz said. "Their rebirth was beginning just when my enthusiasm for the Purdue job was beginning to



die. You get to the point where you no longer feel like giving 200% of yourself to your work. And you know the job well enough after five years, so that nowhere near that much effort is required.

A Challenge

"Aside from the lack of challenge, I always felt my hands were tied trying to promote college athletics," he said. "I'm not criticizing women's or minor sports, but they're certainly a drain on what you can do to advertise and promote the money-making sports."

"I was looking for a situation where I had no restrictions on what I could achieve through my own promotional ideas. But, that's simply not realistic in college athletics."

Ted Haracz' goal certainly IS realistic in professional athletics — particularly professional football.

As much as the fans hate to admit it, the NFL is a BIG business, run by BIG businessmen, with only one goal in mind. BIG MONEY.

Haracz' contribution to that goal often leaves his home in suburban Hoffman Estates operating more like the press room at Lake Forest, than the secluded place he escapes to so infrequently, in the course of a normal seven-day work week.

While most Chicagoans were enjoying their traditional Labor Day in the sun, Haracz was putting in another typical ten-hour day, notifying the local media and the rest of the NFL, of just how the Bears had trimmed their roster down to the 43-man limit.

There was the usual cauliflower-ear full of phone calls to all the team representatives, newspaper, and radio reporters while Haracz was still at the Bears' loop offices. Then at least 30 additional calls to answer at his home within 45 minutes of the time he first walked in the front door.

Eating, sleeping, and breathing Chicago Bear football is enough to take the fan out of anybody. Even a guy who always considered himself the biggest Bear fan this side of Weber High School.

"I don't really mind that," Haracz said. "Actually, the fan part of me died back in 1970 at Purdue. We'd just lost six football games in a row, and my best friend (Bob DeMoss) was the head football coach."

"I hated so to see him do poorly, I got myself all tangled up emotionally, until I finally was forced to put a stop to it, before I had a heart attack. So I decided that the only approach to take was a professional approach."

Whether he realizes it or not, second-year PR man Ted Haracz was a professional all along. And he's been a professional ever since. Even on those once-in-a-while days, when absolutely nothing goes right.

Fran Spielman is a news and sports reporter for Chicago's WIND Radio.

Letters to the Editor

Bear Report welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Due to space limitations, it may be necessary to shorten letters to fill the space available. Bear Report does not necessarily agree with the views stated in letters we receive.

Letters to the Editor 1948 N. Lincoln Chicago, Ill. 60614



Birthday Bear Fans

Dear Doug,

Long time Bear fans Mickey Sekich and Rick Pearce celebrated their birthdays on September 3rd with a giant cake decorated by a Bear helmet.

These two live and breathe the Chicago Bears 365 days a year.

Mickey brought a smile to the party when he recalled an old newspaper headline in the Chicago American which read: 'Our Bruins Rock-Em and Sock-Em.' We all hope to see that in 1976.

Best of luck with your fine newspaper. And a quick P.S. — Rack the Pack.

Sincerely,
Rick Pearce

Waukegan, Illinois

(Rick, who incidentally lives on Green Bay Road in Waukegan, sent along a photo of himself and Mickey Sekich and their birthday cake. We gladly run the photo above. No indication was made as to which was Mickey and which was Rick so take your pick. BR)

A Sunday Drive

Dear Editor:

I have been a Bear fan for twenty years and a season ticket holder for the last six years. Every Sunday when there is a Bear home game, I drive 325 miles to see Chicago play. All my friends think that I'm not too bright, because the Bears are on TV in our area.

But not one Sunday have I ever felt that it was not worth the drive, either in victory or defeat. I am so much of a Bear fan, that my CB handle is the 'Chicago Bear'.

I am writing to you before the first season game and this year I don't think any Bear fan will have to take the guff that we have had to take in the past. We now have the coaches and players to give any team a "Hell of a Game."

Keep up the good work in the Bear Report, one of the finest newspapers I have ever seen.

Sincerely,
A.L. DuPriest, Jr.
Huntington, Indiana

Faithful Follower

Dear Sir:

My nephew said that he recently had heard on the radio that during the football season a weekly paper about the Chicago Bears was available.

Being one of the oldest and most faithful followers of 'Papa Bear', I would appreciate any information you can give me on the paper.

Sincerely,
John H. Stewart
Patoka, Indiana

(John, thanks for your note ... the requested information is on the way, hope you like the paper. BR)



Misplaced Photo

(Above is a photo which was submitted by Bear Report reader Fred Leonard of McHenry, Illinois. The poster in the photo was set up in Fred's Snack Shop. His letter was run in our September 9 issue, yet the photo was misplaced ... we gladly have it here this week. BR)

A Vote to Retire No. 51

Dear Sir:

The Bear Report is a great way to follow the Chicago Bears. I've been a Bear fan for some time and have great respect for Jim Finks, Jack Pardee and the entire organization. HOWEVER, I believe that the Bears made a mistake last season which needs to be corrected.

Dick Butkus, in my opinion, exemplified the best of the 'Monsters of the Midway.' And I feel that the reissuing of his number 51 was a bad move.

To every Bear fan fortunate enough to watch Dick Butkus intimidate opposing teams during his career, there can be no doubt that there is only one number 51.

A petition is being started in Springfield to let Mr. Halas know how the Bear fans here feel. I would hope that other Bear Report readers would do the same.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Gray
Springfield, Illinois

(Mike, currently there are nine Chicago Bear jerseys which have been retired and Dick Butkus' No. 51 is certainly a possibility to be number ten. Center Dan Neal started the year in No. 51 but asked for a change, he now is wearing 52; at this time 51 is not being used. BR)

CAMP TRANSACTIONS

The following is a list of all reported Chicago Bear transactions since the opening of the 1976 training camp. As of September 16 the Bears were at the NFL limit of 43 players.

Waived

Date	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Age	Yr	College
7-16	Henry Abadi	K	6-4	205	27	1	Clemson
8-10	Norm Andersen	WR	5-11	164	23	R	UCLA
8-24	Witt Beckman	WR	6-3	195	24	R	Miami (Fla.)
7-27	Brad Cousino	LB	6-0	219	23	2	Miami (Ohio)
7-20	Ron Cuie	RB	6-1	199	22	R	Oregon St.
9-1	Rick Danmeier	K	5-11	205	24	1	Sioux Falls
9-6	Tom Donchez	RB	6-2	218	24	2	Penn St.
8-24	Ken Downing	CB	5-10	180	22	R	Missouri
7-27	Gary Evans	CB	6-0	181	21	R	N.E. Missouri
8-26	Carl Gersbach	LB	6-1	220	29	7	W. Chester St.
9-6	Bob Grim	WR	6-0	187	31	10	Oregon St.
9-6	Richard Harris	D	6-5	262	28	6	Grambling
7-27	Champ Henson	RB	6-3	240	23	2	Ohio St.
7-27	Bill Hoban	DE	6-4	236	23	R	Michigan
7-27	Jim Hovey	LB	6-4	222	23	1	Kentucky
7-15	Andre Jackson	LB	6-1	230	21	R	Iowa
8-24	Dale Kasowski	RB	6-2	210	22	R	N. Dakota
7-15	Tom Klaban	K	6-0	182	21	R	Ohio St.
7-20	Joe Larkin	S	5-11	195	25	1	Boise St.
9-6	Henry Laws	CB	5-10	169	22	R	S. Carolina
7-15	Jack LeVeck	LB	6-0	225	27	4	Ohio U.
7-20	Bill Marek	RB	5-8	188	22	R	Wisconsin
9-6	Mike Morgan	CB	6-1	198	22	R	Washburn (Ks)
8-24	Ivy Moore	WR	6-3	180	23	R	S. Illinois

7-20	Eddie Moss	RB	6-0	215	27	4	S.E. Missouri
9-6	Bob Newton	G	6-4	260	27	6	Nebraska
9-15	Mark Nordquist	G	6-4	255	30	9	Pacific
9-6	John O'Leary	RB	6-0	205	22	R	Nebraska

8-24	Ron Parker	TE	6-2	222	22	R	TCU
8-10	Vernon Perry	CB	6-2	202	22	R	Jackson St.
7-15	Jim Pooler	RB	5-11	195	21	R	Northwestern

8-18	Ted Powell	TE	6-1	225	23	1	Ohio St.
7-11	Tom Reynolds	WR	6-3	200	27	3	San Diego St.
8-16	Wayne Rhodes	CB	6-1	180	22	R	Alabama

8-2	Ed Strickland	K	6-0	200	28	1	Livingston St.
8-10	Steve Studer	C	6-1	240	23	R	Bowling Green
9-6	Jerry Tagge	QB	6-2	218	26	4	Nebraska

7-27	Jeff Tryon	CB	6-1	185	22	R	Boise St.
7-15	Wayne Womack	LB	6-2	240	21	R	Utah St.

8-12	Ross Brupbacher	LB	6-3	225	28	4	Texas A & M
9-15	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	190	22	R	Yale
9-6	Terry Schmidt	CB	6-0	177	24	3	Ball St.

9-3	Larry Schreiber	RB	6-0	205	29	6	Tenn. Tech
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7-14	Rudy Allen	Retired	WR	6-0	200	21	R	Georgia Tech
7-20	Bob Asher	OT	6-6	258	28	6	Vanderbilt	

7-11	Jimmy Kelly	Filed Physical	WR	5-10	182	22	R	Cincinnati
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9-15	Gary Hrvnak	Injured Reserve	RE	6-5	251	25	4	Purdue
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9-6	Mickey Malham	LB	6-2	210	23	R	Arkansas St.
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9-15	Jerry Meyers	Activated	DE	6-4	252	22	R	N. Illinois
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By using your own knowledge of the game, you can win a \$100 SAVINGS BOND & other valuable prizes. Just select 10 pro football stars you think will score a TD on a designated week ... and if yours is a BONUS ENTRY* you can double your prize!

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Mail all entries to TD Contest, P.O. Box 140, Cecil, WI 54111.

*BONUS ENTRY: All winning entries that are submitted with a subscription order or subscription renewal will have their prize doubled!

Enclosed is my check for a one-year subscription to Packer Report, Bear Report or Viking Report.

It is a new subscription ; Renewal ; Gift Subscription (Recipients name & address enclosed).

This subscription makes me eligible for double prizes.

TD CONTEST RULES

1. Check any of the 10 pro football stars listed below you think will score a touchdown on a designated week.

Entries with more or less than 10 players selected will be void.

2. You must check ONE playing date if entry is to be valid.

3. All entries must be postmarked (no metered mail accepted) 48 hrs. to the date selected. Only one entry per person each week.

F. HARRIS, Pitt.
H. JACKSON, LA
ARMSTRONG, Den.
SWANN, Pitt.
METCALF, St. L.
C. GARRETT, Oak.
CSONKA, NY
BROCKINGTON, GB
B. MALONE, Mia.
CARMICHAEL, Phil.
HAMPTON, Atl.
JESSIE, LA
FOREMAN, Minn.
BRAXTON, Buff.
CLARK, Cinn.
CURTIS, Cinn.
S. ODOM, GB
PAYTON, Chi.
CUNNINGHAM, NE
BANASZAK, Oak.
JEFFERSON, Wash.
STALLWORTH, Pitt.
LASH, Minn.
VOIGT, Minn.
HARPER, Chi.
OLDS, Seattle
MAXON, NO
MUNCIE, NO
GRAY, St. L.
G. RICHARDS, Dall.

C. YOUNG, Phil.
MOSES, Den.
VAN HUESEN, Den.
McCUTCHEON, LA
CAPPALOTTI, LA
MARINARO, NY
BARKUM, NY
CASTER, NY
DOUGHTY, Balt.
BURROUGH, Hous.
BILETNIKOFF, Oak.
BRANCH, Oak.
STINGLEY, NE
BERTLESON, LA
SANDERS, Det.
OTIS, St. L.
B. JONES, Balt.
F. GRANT, Wash.
HARRELL, GB
RATHER, Chi.
BULAICH, Mia.
KENDRICK, Tampa
J. MITCHELL, Atl.
G. WASHINGTON, SF
McGEORGE, GB
B. TUCKER, NY
R. YOUNG, SD
JOINER, SD
A. JOHNSON, NE
TWILLEY, Mia.
CHANDLER, Buff.

HARDEMAN, Hous.
M. THOMAS, Wash.
G. PRUITT, Clev.
JENKINS, Atl.
J. GILLIAM, Atl.
McCAULEY, Balt.
FRITTS, Cinn.
DENISON, Dall.
E. BELL, GB
BUSSEY, Det.
J. D. HILL, Det.
RIGGINS, Wash.
C. HILL, Wash.
NOTTINGHAM, Mia.
B. SMITH, GB
CL. DAVIS, Oak.
D. PEARSON, Dall.
N. MOORE, Mia.
D. WOODS, SD
COLEMAN, Hous.
L. MITCHELL, Balt.
B. JOHNSON, Hous.
KEYWORTH, Den.
L. WALTON, Det.
W. GREEN, KC
VATAHA, NE
FRANCIS, NE
G. BELL, NY
SULLIVAN, Phil.
KOTAR, NY
PAYNE, GB
TORKLESON, GB

(your write-in choices
of players not listed)

Check Only One Date
SEPT. 12, 13
SEPT. 19, 20
SEPT. 26, 27
OCT. 3, 4
OCT. 10, 11
OCT. 17, 18
OCT. 23, 24, 25
OCT. 31, NOV. 1
NOV. 7, 8
NOV. 14, 15
NOV. 21, 22
NOV. 25, 28, 29
DEC. 4, 5, 6
DEC. 11, 12

NAME _____

MEMBERSHIP NO. _____

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CITY _____

STATE _____

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BEAR REPORT

Chicago Bear Report September 23, 1976

TV Pullout Section

Take this special section with you to watch the Monday Night games through the regular season. The TV Pullout Section includes a listing of all nationally televised games for the 1976 season and rosters for the Monday Night games.

Regular Season TV Schedule

Mon., Sep. 13..... Miami at Buffalo (night, ABC)
Mon., Sep. 20..... Oakland at Kansas City (night, ABC)
Mon., Sep. 27..... Washington at Philadelphia (night, ABC)
Mon., Oct. 4..... Pittsburgh at Minnesota (night, ABC)
Mon., Oct. 11..... San Francisco at Los Angeles (night, ABC)
Mon., Oct. 18.... New York Jets at New England (night, ABC)
Mon., Oct. 25..... St. Louis at Washington (night, ABC)
Mon., Nov. 1..... Houston at Baltimore (night, ABC)
Mon., Nov. 8..... Los Angeles at Cincinnati (night, ABC)
Mon., Nov. 15..... Buffalo at Dallas (night, ABC)
Mon., Nov. 22..... Baltimore at Miami (night, ABC)
Thur., Nov. 25. (Thanksgiving) Buffalo at Detroit (day, NBC)
 St. Louis at Dallas (day, CBS)
Mon., Nov. 29..... Minnesota at San Francisco (night, ABC)
Sat., Dec. 4..... Baltimore at St. Louis (day, NBC)
 Atlanta at Los Angeles (day, CBS)
Mon., Dec. 6..... Cincinnati at Oakland (night, ABC)
Sat., Dec. 11..... Minnesota at Miami (day, CBS)
 Pittsburgh at Houston (day, NBC)
 Los Angeles at Detroit (night, ABC)
Sat., Dec. 18... AFC & NFC Divisional Playoffs (NBC & CBS)
Sun., Dec. 19... AFC & NFC Divisional Playoffs (NBC & CBS)

Monday Night Games At A Glance (All times local)

Sep. 13	Miami 30, Buffalo 21
Sep. 20	Oakland at Kansas City..... 8:00
Sep. 27	Washington at Philadelphia..... 9:00
Oct. 4	Pittsburgh at Minnesota..... 8:00
Oct. 11	San Francisco at Los Angeles..... 6:00
Oct. 18	New York Jets at New England..... 9:00
Oct. 25	St. Louis at Washington..... 9:00
Nov. 1	Houston at Baltimore..... 9:00
Nov. 8	Los Angeles at Cincinnati..... 9:00
Nov. 15	Buffalo at Dallas..... 8:00
Nov. 22	Baltimore at Miami..... 9:00
Nov. 29	Minnesota at San Francisco..... 6:00
Dec. 6	Cincinnati at Oakland..... 6:00

(Fourteenth game of ABC nationally televised series will be Los Angeles at Detroit, Saturday night, Dec. 11, 9:00 local time)

BEARS ON RADIO

All Chicago Bear football games can be heard exclusively on WGN Radio, 720 AM in Chicago. Join Bill Berg and Mike Pyle, or Jack Brickhouse and Irv Kupcinet for each week's play-by-play account during the 1976 season.

TV Doubleheader Games

(Following Sunday games are scheduled to be seen in many market areas as part of television doubleheaders)

Sep. 12	Oakland 31, Pittsburgh 28
Sep. 19	Los Angeles 10, Minnesota 10
Sep. 26	Baltimore at Dallas (NBC)
Oct. 3	Los Angeles at Miami (CBS)
Oct. 10	Miami at Baltimore (NBC)
Oct. 17	Dallas at St. Louis (CBS)
Oct. 24	Green Bay at Oakland (CBS) Cincinnati at Houston (NBC)
Oct. 31	Dallas at Washington (CBS)
Nov. 7	Detroit at Minnesota (CBS)
Nov. 14	Miami at Pittsburgh (NBC)
Nov. 21	Washington at St. Louis (CBS)
Nov. 28	Pittsburgh at Cincinnati (NBC)
Dec. 5	Buffalo at Miami (NBC)
Dec. 12	Washington at Dallas (CBS)

Postseason

Sat., Dec. 18.	AFC & NFC Divisional Playoffs (NBC and CBS)
Sun., Dec. 19	AFC & NFC Divisional Playoffs (NBC and CBS)
Sun., Dec. 26	AFC Championship Game (NBC) NFC Championship Game (CBS)
Sun., Jan. 9	Super Bowl XI at Rose Bowl, Pasadena (NBC)
Mon., Jan. 17	AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at Seattle (night, ABC)

The Bears Regionally

The following ten television stations have been designated as members of CBS's Chicago Bears regional network for 1976. Bob Cochran, the National Football League's broadcast coordinator, does offer a word of caution saying that area stations may be added or dropped from the network depending on the game's regional importance.

Those stations now on the list include:

WBHF-TV	Rock Island, Illinois
WCIA-TV	Champaign, Illinois
WMBD-TV	Peoria, Illinois
WCEE-TV	Rockford, Illinois
WBBM-TV	Chicago, Illinois
WTHI-TV	Terre Haute, Indiana
WSBI-TV	South Bend, Indiana
WANE-TV	Fort Wayne, Indiana
WISH-TV	Indianapolis, Indiana
WLFI-TV	Lafayette, Indiana

JACK PARDEE SHOW

During the 1976 regular season join Bear head coach Jack Pardee and host Johnny Morris on WBBM-TV (Channel 2 in Chicago). The Jack Pardee Show will air each week one hour before the Bears' TV kick-off time.



APPLAUDING the start of a new NFL season is linebacker Doug Buffone. In entering his 11th pro year Buffone had appeared in 140 straight games for Chicago.

(Photo by Bill Smith)

Is 'Rebuilding' Realistic?

Simple Mathematics Tell You The Answer Is 'No!'

By STEVE PENNER
S.P.A. SPECIAL

Mention the term "rebuilding" to a Patriots or Saints or Falcons fan, and he will cringe. Mention a divisional title to a Raiders, Cowboys or Vikings fan, and he will yawn.

If the decade of the 1960's marked the "Golden Age of Professional Football," the 70's are the "Xerox Age." For even the most avid pro football fans, the NFL standings of the 70's blur together with a sameness of political conventions' keynote addresses.

Last year's meteoric rise of the Baltimore Colts from a 2-12 basement record in 1974 to a 10-4 mark and the AFC East title was more remarkable when contrasted with other recent division races.

If the pro football draft is supposed to be the great equalizer, it has been a colossal failure. Year after year the Raiders, Cowboys and Steelers continue to pull plums out of the draft, while any fan who can name one New Orleans Saint first round choice qualifies as a true football trivia buff.

With the NFL's 57th season getting under way, sports writers, broadcasters, and self-proclaimed football experts are making their annual predictions. And does it take any great insight to predict



For The Patriots, Rebuilding Is Like Constructing A Sand Castle Between Waves!

what the "experts" will be predicting?

In the National Football Conference, the Minnesota Vikings have won the Central Division crown seven times in the past eight years! Moreover their margin of victory over the second place team (which by the way has been the Detroit Lions seven straight years!!!) has never been less than two games, and has been as many as five games twice!

Just for comparison's sake, a five game margin of victory over a 14 game schedule would compare to a baseball team winning a division title by the whopping total of 58 games!

The NFC's Eastern Division has demonstrated a little more balance during this period, as Dallas has won three titles, St. Louis two, and Washington one since the NFL was split into two conferences in 1970. In the same period, San Francisco won the Western Division the first three years, while the Los Angeles Rams have copped the last three titles.

In the AFC East, the Colts have won the first and last titles of the decade, while Don Shula's Miami

Dolphins captured four consecutive titles in between.

The domination of the Oakland Raiders in the AFC West has been as formidable as the Vikings in the NFC Central. Over the past nine years, dating back to the old American Football League, the Raiders have taken eight division titles, with a Kansas City crown in 1971 being the only fly in Al Davis's ointment.

In the AFC Central, the Pittsburgh Steelers have won three titles this decade, while Cincinnati has won twice and the Cleveland Browns once.

The domination of a few teams can be seen even more clearly in examining playoff results. Of the 26 NFL entries since 1970, only six teams, three in each conference, have played in the Super Bowl.

But the consistency of some teams at the top has been matched on the bottom of the NFL heap. Since 1970, the New Orleans Saints have finished in the basement of the NFC's Western Division five times, with only a 1974 third place finish to mar their perfect record.

And the San Diego Chargers in the AFC West have a streak of four consecutive basement



Vikings Domination Is The Equivalent Some Years Of Winning Baseball Pennant By 58 Games!

finishes going into the 1976 season.

To what can such consistency be attributed? The answer lies in mathematics, pure and simple. In basketball, there are only five starters, and the addition of one giant can turn a team's fortunes around overnight. But in football, there are 11 starters on offense and 11 on defense, plus a place-kicker and a punter. Thus, not even counting the people on the all-important specialty teams, the average pro football squad has 24 starters!

According to most pro football scouts, in a good draft year there are perhaps 100 players at most who within two years can make a valuable contribution to a football team. In pre-expansion and pre-AFL days, when only 12 professional teams roamed the Earth, this meant that each team could draft as many as 8 players who could help the team. Therefore a team could draft an entirely new batch of starters every three years.

Today, though, there are 28 professional teams. This means that no single team can hope to scoop more than 3 or 4 top grade players out of any draft. Thus, it

now takes between six and eight years to draft a new team of starting players!

Moreover, the average career of an NFL player presently lasts only 4½ years. Therefore, a rebuilding team must begin replacing some of the players around whom they began rebuilding, before their task is little more than half completed.

Picture a child at the beach trying to construct a sand castle while the pounding tides wear away his initial efforts, and you begin to understand the problem facing the general manager of a cellar-dwelling franchise.

In 1971 the New England Patriots drafted a young quarterback from Stanford named Jim Plunkett and announced to their victory-starved fans that this strapping youth with the bazooka arm was to be the cornerstone of their team for years to come.

Five years later Jim Plunkett was traded for five draft choices and the still victory-starved fans were told that the draft choices would soon prove the nucleus of a rebuilt championship team.

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Baltimore at Dallas Sunday, September 26 NBC-TV (3 p.m. CDT)

Colts

No.	Name	Pos	Yr	College	
2	Linhart, Toni	K	4	Austria Tech	
7	Jones, Bert	QB	4	LSU	
12	Troup, Bill	QB	3	S. Carolina	
15	Kirkland, Mike	QB	R	Arkansas	
20	Wallace, Jackie	S	3	Arizona	
23	McCauley, Don	RB	6	N. Carolina	
25	Oldham, Ray	DB	4	Mid. Tenn. State	
26	Mitchell, Lydell	RB	5	Penn State	
27	Stevens, Howard	KR/RB	4	Louisville	
31	Munsey, Nelson	CB	5	Wyoming	
33	Hall, Randy	S	2	Idaho	
34	Lee, Ron	RB	R W.	Virginia	
35	Doughty, Glenn	WR	5	Michigan	
40	Laird, Bruce	S	5	Amer. Intern.	
42	Mumphord, Lloyd	CB	8	Tex. Southern	
47	Baylor, Tim	DB	R	Morgan St.	
48	Leaks, Roosevelt	RB	2	Texas	
49	Lee, David	P	11	La. Tech	
50	Blue, Forrest	C	9	Auburn	
53	White, Stan	LB	5	Ohio St.	
	55	Dickel, Dan	LB	3	Iowa
	56	Simonini, Ed	LB	R	Texas A&M
	57	Mendenhall, Ken	C	6	Oklahoma
	58	Luce, Derrel	LB	2	Baylor
	59	Cheyunki, Jim	LB	9	Syracuse
	61	Pratt, Robert	G	3	N. Carolina
	62	Huff, Ken	G	2	N. Carolina
	63	Barnes, Mike	DT	4	Miami (Fla.)
	64	Taylor, David	T	4	Catawba
	66	Collett, Elmer	G	10	San Fran. St.
	67	Van Duyne, Bob	G	3	Idaho
	72	Cook, Fred	DE	3	S. Miss.
	73	Fernandes, Ron	DE	2	E. Michigan
	74	Novak, Ken	DT	R	Purdue
	75	Kunz, George	T	8	Notre Dame
	76	Ehrmann, Joe	DT	4	Syracuse
	78	Dutton, John	DE	3	Nebraska
	81	Carr, Roger	WR	3	La. Tech
	83	Thompson, Ricky	WR	R	Baylor
	85	Kennedy, Jimmie	TE	2	Colorado St.
	87	Chester, Raymond	TE	7	Morgan St.
	92	Shiver, Sanders	LB	R	Carson-Newman

Cowboys

No.	Name	Pos	Yr	College	
1	Herrera, Efren	K	3	UCLA	
11	White, Danny	QB/P	R	Arizona St.	
12	Staubach, Roger	QB	8	Navy	
20	Renfro, Mel	CB	13	Oregon	
21	Dennison, Doug	RB	3	Kutztown St.	
25	Kyle, Aaron	CB	R	Wyoming	
26	Pearson, Preston	RB	10	Illinois	
30	Young, Charles	RB	2	N. Carolina St.	
31	Barnes, Benny	CB	5	Stanford	
35	Laidlaw, Scott	RB	2	Stanford	
37	Jensen, Jim	RB	R	Iowa	
41	Waters, Charlie	S	7	Clemson	
42	Hughes, Randy	S	2	Oklahoma	
43	Harris, Cliff	S	7	Ouachita	
44	Newhouse, Robert	RB	5	Houston	
46	Washington, Mark	CB	7	Morgan St.	
50	Lewis, D.O.	LB	8	Miss. State	
52	Eidson, Jim	G/C	R	Miss. State	
53	Breunig, Bob	LB	2	Arizona St.	
54	White, Randy	LB	2	Maryland	
55	Jordan, Lee Roy	LB	14	Alabama	
	56	Henderson, Thomas	LB	2	Langston
	58	Hegman, Mike	LB	R	Tenn. St.
	61	Nye, Blaine	G	9	Stanford
	62	Fitzgerald, John	C	6	Boston College
	63	Cole, Larry	DT	9	Hawaii
	64	Rafferty, Tom	G/C	R	Penn State
	66	Lawless, Burton	G	2	Florida
	67	Donovan, Pat	T	2	Stanford
	68	Scott, Herbert	G	2	Va. Union
	70	Wright, Rayfield	T	10	Fl. Valley St.
	72	Jones, Ed	DE	3	Tenn. St.
	73	Neely, Ralph	T	12	Oklahoma
	75	Pugh, Jethro	DT	12	Eliz. City St.
	77	Gregory, Bill	DT	6	Wisconsin
	78	Schaum, Greg	DE	R	Mich. State
	79	Martin, Harvey	DE	4	E. Texas St.
	82	Reece, Beasley	WR	R	N. Texas
	83	Richards, Golden	WR	4	Hawaii
	86	Johnson, Butch	WR	R	UC-Riverside
	87	Saldi, Jay	TE	R	S. Carolina
	88	Pearson, Drew	WR	4	Tulsa
	89	DuPree, Billy Joe	TE	4	Mich. St.

Washington at Philadelphia Monday, September 27 ABC-TV (8 p.m. CDT)

Redskins

No.	Name	Pos	Yr	College	
3	Moseley, Mark	K	5	Austin St.	
4	Bragg, Mike	P	9	Richmond	
7	Theismann, Joe	QB	3	Notre Dame	
12	Johnson, Randy	QB	10	Texas A&I	
13	Scott, Jake	S	7	Georgia	
17	Kilmier, Bill	QB	15	UCLA	
20	Lavender, Joe	CB	4	San Diego St.	
21	Jones, Larry	WR	3	N.E. Mo. State	
22	Thomas, Mike	RB	2	Nevada-Las Vegas	
23	Owens, Brig	S	11	Cincinnati	
25	Brown, Eddie	S	3	Tennessee	
26	Brunet, Bob	RB	7	La. Tech	
27	Houston, Ken	S	10	Prairie View	
35	Hill, Calvin	RB	7	Yale	
37	Fischer, Pat	CB	16	Nebraska	
43	Brown, Larry	RB	8	Kansas St.	
44	Riggins, John	RB	6	Kansas	
45	Williams, Gerard	DB	1	Langston	
46	Grant, Frank	WR	4	S. Colorado	
50	Wysocki, Pete	LB	2	W. Michigan	
53	McClinton, Harold	LB	8	Southern	
	54	Kuziel, Bob	C	2	Pittsburgh
	55	Hamburger, Chris	LB	12	N. Carolina
	56	Hauss, Len	C	13	Georgia
	57	O'Dell, Stu	LB	3	Indiana
	59	Dusek, Brad	LB	3	Texas A&M
	61	Johnson, Dennis	DT	3	Delaware
	62	Nugent, Dan	G	1	Auburn
	64	Saul, Ron	G	7	Mich. St.
	65	Butz, Dave	DT	4	Purdue
	66	Fritsch, Ted	C	5	St. Norbert
	67	Tillman, Rusty	LB	7	N. Arizona
	68	Talbert, Diron	DT	10	Texas
	70	Starke, George	T	4	Columbia
	75	Hermeleing, Terry	T	6	Nevada-Reno
	76	Stokes, Tim	T	3	Oregon
	77	Brundige, Bill	DT	7	Colorado
	79	McDole, Ron	DE	16	Nebraska
	80	Jefferson, Roy	WR	12	Utah
	82	Hickman, Dallas	DE	1	Calif.-Berkeley
	84	Fuggett, Jean	TE	5	Amherst
	85	Fryer, Brian	WR	R	Alberta (Canada)
	87	Smith, Jerry	TE	12	Arizona St.

Eagles

No.	Name	Pos	Yr	College	
6	Jones, Spike	P	7	Georgia	
10	Boryla, Mike	QB	3	Stanford	
11	Walton, John	QB	1	Eliz. City St.	
16	Muhlmann, Horst	K	8	None	
17	Carmichael, Harold	WR	6	Southern U.	
20	Outlaw, John	CB	8	Jackson St.	
22	Marshall, Larry	KR	5	Maryland	
23	Brooks, Clifford	CB	5	Tenn. St.	
24	Parker, Artimus	S	3	Southern Calif.	
25	Sullivan, Tom	RB	5	Miami	
26	Malone, Art	RB	7	Arizona St.	
28	Bradley, Bill	S/P	8	Texas	
32	Lusk, Herb	RB	R	Long Beach St.	
35	Hogan, Mike	RB	R	Tenn-Chattanooga	
37	Campbell, Tommy	CB	1	Iowa St.	
41	Logan, Randy	S	4	Michigan	
43	McAlister, James	RB	2	UCLA	
50	Morriss, Guy	C	4	Tex. Christian	
53	Franks, Dennis	C	1	Michigan	
55	LeMaster, Frank	LB	3	Kentucky	
	58	Tautolo, Terry	LB	R	UCLA
	59	Ehlers, Tom	LB	2	Kentucky
	61	Dunston, Bill	DT	4	Utah St.
	64	George, Ed	T	2	Wake Forest
	66	Bergey, Bill	LB	8	Arkansas St.
	67	Bleamer, Jeff	G	2	Penn